

Iraqis urged to conserve fuel oil

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Oil Ministry urged Iraqis Wednesday to stockpile oil and petroleum products for the winter to avoid shortages if war erupts in the Gulf.

The announcement, published by the government's Al Jumhuriya daily, said the ministry will provide the market with fuel oil, kerosene, cooking gas, gasoline and diesel so that purchases can be made.

"We hope that all citizens will buy their needs so they may overcome any shortages that might result from an aggression on our oil installations," it said.

Iraq was producing around 3.1 million barrels of oil a day, of which 100,000 barrels a day were needed for domestic consumption, before its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq has shut down an estimated 75 per cent of its oilfields

Allies aim to topple Iraqi air power

BAHRAIN (R) — If a Gulf war breaks out, allied planes aim to win control of the skies within hours by launching a devastating strike against Iraqi air power, a British air force commander said Wednesday.

Group Captain David Henderson, commander of two squadrons of royal air force Tornado and Jaguar ground attack bombers in Bahrain, said his aircraft were ready to go to war. His pilots were flying training missions round the clock and there would be no let-up in their high state of readiness over the coming holiday.

"It will be business as usual throughout the Christmas period," Henderson told reporters.

"The capabilities that we have against the Iraqis mean we could very quickly obtain air superiority," he said.

"I think we will use all the air assets we have got out here... to be able to mount a very carefully

coordinated attack to respond to anything they throw at us," he said.

Henderson asserted initial air superiority could be won "within hours," although other air force sources said it could take "days rather than weeks" to establish control in the skies.

Henderson said overall victory could not be achieved without ground forces.

Iraq has around 500,000 troops in or near Kuwait and since the August 2 invasion they have been digging in behind deep anti-tank ditches and high sand walls.

British air force officers are at pains to stress that while they do not want war, they will strike hard if hostilities start.

Squadron leader Chris Allan, who flies Jaguars, said: "I think you always have doubts, you wouldn't be human if you didn't have doubts. But we have got enough to do the job."

French Communists oppose Gulf role

PARIS (AP) — Secretary-General Georges Marchais opened the French Communist Party's national congress Tuesday with sharp criticism of France's participation in the Gulf crisis.

"This war cannot be our war," Marchais said of a possible conflict in the Gulf.

Marchais, who like his party is 70 years old, also pledged to press ahead with a crusade against capitalism in France, even as he admitted that international communism is in deep trouble.

He ruled out any resumption of cooperation with the governing socialists, saying President Francois Mitterrand has forsaken the left and implemented "the policies sought by big money, the policies of the right."

Marchais' nearly four-hour speech to more than 1,700 delegates opened the party's five-day congress, being held at a time when the organisation has its lowest level of support in decades. It remains, however, one of the west's largest communist parties.

The organisation claims 600,000 members, although even party members say the figure is inflated. Its support in recent national elections has dropped below 10 per cent.

Communists held 26 of 577 seats in the National Assembly. In 1916, they held 182 seats, the most of any party, but their share dropped to 11 in 1981 and 35 in 1986.

The party also controls 1,097 municipal councils, including dozens of working-class suburbs around major cities, but only one community — Le Havre — has more than 100,000 people.

The party congress, held every three years, is the highest-level forum for choosing leadership and setting policy. This one is its first since the fall of communist governments in Eastern Europe.

Marchais criticised the Soviet Union's decision to authorise use of force against Iraq in the Gulf crisis, saying the move "deeply disappointed the people of France."

He has previously criticised France's deployment of about 13,000 troops, 11 ships, and three squadrons of aircraft as part of the multinational force arrayed against Iraq in the Gulf. It is France's largest deployment abroad since the Algerian war in the 1960s.

Expected wave of Falashas meets Israeli resistance

By Gwen Ackerman
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Israeli towns, already burdened with absorbing thousands of Soviet immigrants, are reluctant to accept the 20,000 Ethiopian Jews expected to arrive in the next year, officials say.

Shimon Shetreet, treasurer of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency that helps handle immigration to Israel, told Israel Radio Tuesday that resistance was centred in so-called development towns created in outlying areas.

"Most of those development towns who the agency was in contact with told us they were opposed to absorbing immigrants from Ethiopia... fearing the absorption of a large number will add to the socioeconomic problems they already have," said Shetreet.

Gad Ben Ari, spokesman for the agency, referred to "pockets of resistance" to the Ethiopian immigrants, citing economic and social burdens caused by settling the African Jews, known as Falashas, who come mostly from peasant backgrounds.

He added in a telephone interview: "This is very grave in our eyes. Simha Dinitz, director of the agency, calls the resistance totally unjustified and unacceptable."

Ethiopian Jews have complained recently that Israeli officials were holding up the flow of immigrants because of question over their Jewishness.

But Israel has maintained the stalled immigration was due to Ethiopian President Haile Mengistu Mariam, who reportedly has demanded imports of Israeli arms in exchange for freeing Jews from his country.

Officials in Washington said Monday that Mengistu's government "reached agreement" last month with U.S. and Israeli diplomats to allow about 1,000 Jews to leave each month.

Immigration officials here said they expect a faster rate of immigration and predicted all 20,000 Jews trying to leave Ethiopia could arrive in Israel before the end of 1991.

Ethiopian Jews, who trace their lineage to Biblical times,

lived in isolation from mainstream Jewish life for over 2,000 years. In 1981, Israel launched a secret airlift with U.S. support to rescue them.

Some 8,000 were evacuated before Operation Moses became public, causing the government of Ethiopia to block further departure.

After Ethiopia and Israel resumed diplomatic relations in October 1989, about 400 to 500 Jews were leaving the country each month for Israel. However, the flow was stopped from July through November.

The Ethiopians have caused controversy here because ultra-orthodox Jews have demanded they undergo symbolic conversion to Judaism, a step of African Jews have opposed.

However, Jewish Agency officials and news reports blamed the reluctance to house the black Jews by Israeli towns on the burden of absorbing Soviets arriving at the rate of more than 1,000 daily.

They also cited complaints that the Ethiopians require more care since most are unskilled and uneducated. More than half of the Ethiopians who arrived through Operation Moses remain in absorption centres.

The mayors of Dimona and Shlomi were quoted in the daily Hadashot as citing lack of apartments as reason for not wanting the Ethiopians.

Both said that all vacant apartments have been filled by the new Soviet arrivals. Some 155,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel in the past year and officials expect a million by the end of 1992.

However, Hadashot also reported that the town of Maalot said last year it could not accept Ethiopians because it could not afford to refurbish apartments for them. Now, the newspaper said, 500 Soviets are living in the same buildings.

Despite Ethiopian complaints of being pushed aside by the more easily absorbed Soviet immigrants, Ben Ari said he was confident the Ethiopians would benefit from the simultaneous influx.

"The Ethiopian Jews will be part of the momentum and the process will be much easier this time," he said.

Saudi Arabia halts jet fuel exports to boost military stocks

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has stopped all jet fuel and diesel oil exports to boost military stocks before the United Nations Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait, Gulf-based oil traders said.

"It seems the (Saudi) government has instructed the refineries to stop all jet oil and kerosene exports," an oil trader in the Gulf said.

Almost 2,000 warplanes, the cutting edge of the multinational forces ranged against Iraq, need kerosene, the basis of jet fuel. Turbine-powered warships and some U.S. tanks also consume jet fuel.

Diesel oil powers most tanks, troop carriers, missile launchers and other transport vehicles.

Riyadh has undertaken to supply the fuel needs of the U.S.-led multinational forces massed in the kingdom.

"It seems Saudi Arabia wants to have full (fuel) tanks on Jan. 15," one oil trader said.

Oil industry sources also said three of the kingdom's major refineries, Ras Tanura, Jubail and Riyadh, lay within range of Iraqi missiles. This was another reason for a rapid buildup of dispersed stocks ahead of the U.N. deadline.

Oil traders in Singapore said Tuesday that Mobil, which operates a joint venture export refin-

ery with Saudi Arabia at Yanbu on the Red Sea coast, had declared force majeure on kerosene and gas oil exports.

Force majeure exempts parties to a contract from their obligations because of events outside their control.

Saudi Arabia had already stopped all products exports from its Ras Tanura refinery, the world's biggest, after a fire on Nov. 30 forced a shutdown of the whole plant, until the first week of January.

Jet fuel and diesel oil exports from Jubail refinery on the Gulf, a joint venture with Shell, had also been halted since the first week of December.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said the closure of Ras Tanura refinery until the first week of January has forced the kingdom to divert all available fuel sources to supply the multinational forces.

The sources said they believed the closure of Ras Tanura refinery would not affect the fighting capabilities of the U.S.-led multinational forces due to already high levels of stocks and the existence of other sources in and outside the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia has seven refineries altogether with a total capacity of around 1.7 million b/d, including Ras Tanura.

Out of the six remaining oper-

ational refineries, three are 50/50 joint venture export refineries. They are at Jubail on the Gulf (250,000 b/d), and Yanbu (250,000 b/d) and Rabigh (325,000 b/d) on the Red Sea, with Shell, Mobil and the Greek company Petrolia respectively.

The other three Saudi refineries are located at Jeddah (91,000 b/d), Riyadh (134,000 b/d) and Yanbu (170,000 b/d) and mainly serve the domestic market.

Oil industry sources said Saudi Arabia, by running its remaining six refineries at almost full capacity, could process around 1.2 million barrels of crude.

Apart from the refineries in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain's 250,000 b/d refinery, linked to the Arabian Peninsula by a 30-kilometre causeway, had been supplying the U.S. navy and air force in the Gulf with jet fuel even before Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Three other refineries are operating on the Gulf coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Qatar has a 60,000 b/d plant, and Abu Dhabi an 80,000 b/d domestic refinery at Umm Al Nar and a 120,000 b/d export refinery at Ruwais.

Outside the Gulf, Oman has a 70,000 b/d plant and Yemen, a sympathiser of Iraq, a 170,000 b/d refinery at Aden.

Sudanese refugees caught between drought and government plan

By Mohammad Osman
The Associated Press

AL OBEID — Like thousands of others suffering the effects of a worsening drought and threatened by famine, Awadalla Bakheit and his family struggled across western Sudan seeking help.

Yet, like other refugees streaming into this regional capital, they may merely be given some food and money and shipped back to the countryside.

The government is trying to discourage a large permanent camp in Al Obeid, which is proving to be an uphill battle.

"I walked four days to reach here. We're just waiting for the will of God and what the government will decide," said 35-year-old Bakheit at the

Rukub camp for displaced people 16 kilometres north of the city.

Weary-looking men, women and children cluster under the few trees, seeking shade. Tents are not provided, a move by the military government to prevent settlement.

Across Sudan, Africa's largest nation, two consecutive years of drought conditions have led to fears a serious famine may loom.

In the Kordofan region of which Al Obeid is the capital, nearly a third of the 3.5 million inhabitants have been affected.

Authorities in Al Obeid, about 325 kilometres southwest of Khartoum, have declared the region a disaster area, but the central government refuses to officially acknowledge the

crisis.

Famine has struck most of the country, affecting up to seven million of its 25 million people, and much worse is expected within six months. Relief professionals say a million tons of food are needed to avert disaster.

The United States and other Western donors have condemned the government for refusing to acknowledge that an emergency exists, thus preventing the international relief operation needed to head off mass starvation.

Ahmad Omer, deputy director of the Rukub camp, said 9,000 people recently arrived from the nearby countryside.

"We will supply them with a month's food and pocket money," he said.

They are then sent packing

in trucks, either back home or to areas where they can find work.

Omer said turning people away from the camp was part of the policy of Omer Hassan Al Bashir's government not to encourage large settlements.

In 1984-85, thousands died in Sudanese camps for lack of adequate food and medicine.

Col. Faisal Medani Mukhtar, the region's military governor, was quoted by the government newspaper Al Inkaz Al Watany as saying his region needs 330,000 tons of food to see it through until the next harvest in late 1991.

A lack of rain made this winter's harvest a total failure, and schools were closed after recent rioting and looting of food stocks.

Omer said the emergency

has been eased somewhat by distribution in some areas of 3,500 sacks of dura, the Sudanese staple sorghum, provided by the European Community and the government.

Displaced people arrive at the camps in "fairly good health," according to Omer, although he attested to a few malnourished children.

Comprehensive health records do not exist, but Al Obeid's hospital admitted 15 adults and children over a two-day period suffering from malnutrition or related problems such as overeating.

An official at the hospital said the overeating occurred when people who had gone without food for days stuffed themselves at a relief kitchen. He said no hunger-related deaths had been reported in

the Al Obeid hospital.

Western Kordofan also faces a shortage of drinking water because it depends on rainwater as its main source.

The regional capital's 600,000 residents have only a third of the 1.5 billion gallons of water they need daily, government's television has reported, and the locals blame their thirst partly on the displaced people at Rukub and other camps.

Libya has offered to help build a pipeline more than 50 kilometres long to solve the region's water needs. But the project would not be completed in time to help this year's drought victims.

The United Nations' children's organisation UNICEF has provided \$50,000 to buy water pumps.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

French pacifists stop Gulf-bound ferry

DUNKIRK, France (R) — Pacifists and trade unionists in the French port of Dunkirk have stopped a government-chartered ferry carrying equipment for French forces in the Gulf, officials said Wednesday. They said seamen and dockers prevented the ferry from leaving Tuesday night and some 20 pacifists opposed France's involvement in the Gulf boarded the ship. France has 6,200 troops in Saudi Arabia and is sending 3,300 reinforcements.

Dutch wants option to refuse Gulf duty

THE HAGUE (R) — A Dutch conscripts' union has asked parliament to rule that soldiers doing their military service should be allowed to refuse any call for duty in the Gulf. The Netherlands weighing whether to send ground forces or otherwise increase its contribution to the Western efforts to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait. The Union for Conscript Soldiers, which fights to improve conditions for conscripts, said that if the government decided to send ground troops, conscripts should be asked to go only on a voluntary basis. "Conscripts must in all cases decide themselves whether or not they will take part in a force in the Gulf," the petition said. A Defence Ministry spokesman declined to comment on the petition, saying that no decision on whether to send Dutch ground troops had yet been made. But he noted that the 700 Dutch marines on two frigates so far sent by the Netherlands to the Gulf had all freely consented to their task.

Danish warship rescues Iranians

COPENHAGEN (AP) — A Danish warship Wednesday rescued six Iranian seamen off a freighter that sank after a collision with another vessel in the Gulf, Denmark's public radio reported. The sailors were being treated for exposure in the sick-bay of the Danish corvette Offert Fischer after spending six hours in the sea, the radio said. They were to be taken to Dubai later Wednesday. A seventh crewman from the Iranian freighter was still missing, the radio said. A U.S. destroyer and a Norwegian supply ship joined the search. The freighter was en route from Dubai to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas around midnight local time when it was rammed and sank by a larger vessel, said the radio. The other ship sailed on and disappeared in the dark. The incident occurred near the Hormuz Strait at the mouth of the Gulf. The Iranian vessel was not identified in the report.

Judge revokes bail for Nosair

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge, disclosing that he had been threatened, revoked Al Sayyid Nosair's \$300,000 bail Tuesday and ordered the suspect in the killing of Rabbi Meir Kahane remanded to jail. State Supreme Court Justice Alvin Schlesinger cited several factors as evidence that there was a strong likelihood that Nosair, 35, a native of Egypt, would flee. Among them was a passport Nosair held in a different name. The judge also noted that officials had found some cyanide in Nosair's workplace locker at a Manhattan address, where he worked as a city heating maintenance man. Schlesinger said the cyanide could be used to poison someone or commit suicide. The judge said he believed prosecutors had a strong case against Nosair, who is accused of gunning down the Jewish leader at a Manhattan hotel on Nov. 5. Schlesinger noted a bullet-ridden piece of plasterboard that prosecutors removed from Nosair's Cliffside Park, New Jersey, home. During the bail hearing, the judge also disclosed that he received numerous death threats and attempts to influence him via telephone messages and mail. His admission prompted defence attorney Michael Warren to ask that Schlesinger remove himself from the case, which the judge promptly denied saying the threats and attempts to pressure him would not affect his handling of the case. The next hearing in the case was set for March 4.

Egypt's Azhar slams Israel

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Al Azhar, the world's oldest seat of Islamic learning, attacked Israel Wednesday for ordering four Palestinians out of the occupied territories and failing to protect Muslim holy places. "Al Azhar condemns Israel's threats to continue aggression on holy places in Jerusalem and the expulsion of Arabs from their homes," said a statement carried by the Middle East News Agency. Israel ordered the expulsion of four Palestinians, after the stabbing to death on Friday of three Israeli in Tel Aviv. The statement also denounced Israel for failing "to perform its duties towards the protection of holy places of all religions." It held Israel responsible for actions by its nationals at the holy sites. Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque is Islam's third holiest place. The statement called on Palestinians "to hold on to their land and defend their holy places even with their own bodies." It urged Muslim nations and international organisations to take action "to protect unarmed Arabs and enable them to exercise their human rights."

New Zealanders advised to leave Gulf

WELLINGTON (R) — Dependents of New Zealanders living in some parts of the Gulf should leave the area well before the January 15 deadline for Iraqi troops to quit Kuwait, Foreign Affairs Minister Don McKinnon said on Wednesday. McKinnon said in a statement that he was offering common sense advice because of the possibility of war breaking out in the region after the deadline, set by the United Nations Security Council. The advice to quit applies to dependents in Bahrain, Qatar and the Eastern Province and southern parts of Saudi Arabia. Last month, the new National Party government reversed the policy of its Labour predecessor by announcing that New Zealand would join the multinational force in the Gulf. It is due to send two Hercules transport aircraft shortly.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local news
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:50 Cartoons
19:25 Documentary
19:30 News in French
19:35 Reportage d'Actualites
19:40 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local programme
21:10 Black Forest
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Hollywood Detective"

PRAYER TIMES

05:04 Fajr
06:25 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:33 Dhuhr
14:17 'Asr
16:44 Maghrib
18:03 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiout International Church Tel. 827981, 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds appear at different altitudes and there will be a chance for light scattered showers. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Min./Max. temp. 6/16

Aqaba 10/21

Dead Sea 4/18

Jordan Valley 11/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Anwar Aghabawi 640696
Dr. Sa'ad Zayed 790677
Dr. Ahmad Al Dagh 776719
Dr. Khalil Al Hababi 740740
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Al Salan pharmacy 626672
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shameil pharmacy 637660

REMO:

Dr. Amjad Obaidat (—)
Al Sharras pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih (—)
Khalith pharmacy 98417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630221

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information 121

Jordan, Yemen discuss cooperation in education

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Yemeni delegation led by Minister of Education Ahmad Al Qadi held talks in Amman Wednesday with Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan and visited the University of Jordan to learn more about higher education in the country.

Hamdan briefed the Yemeni delegation on the educational system in Jordan since 1950 and outlined the services offered to the school graduates by community colleges and universities. "This year alone the community colleges accepted 22,000 students, while the universities accepted a total of 10,000 others in addition to 1,200 students accepted at the private universities," the minister said.

The Yemeni minister said that his country was eager to benefit from the Jordanian experience and to bolster bilateral cooperation in educational fields.

Upon visiting the University of Jordan, the delegation members were briefed by its President Mahmoud Al Samra about university programmes and future plans. "The university now has 14 faculties providing education to 20,500 under-graduate and post-graduate students," Samra said.

The delegation toured the university's departments and received a commemorative gift. The delegation visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) where they were briefed by its President Hani Mulki on the society's development and its activities. Mulki expressed hope that Yemen and Jordan would be promoting cooperation in scientific fields.

The delegation visited the Higher Council for Science and Technology and met with its officials to learn about the council's programmes and activities.

ALO endorses agenda

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Board of Directors of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) ended a three-day meeting in Amman Wednesday after discussing a statement on number of financial and administrative issues as well as progress on Friday of the organisation's work.

The organisation's director general, Baker Mahmoud Rasoul, said in a statement to the press that the board had endorsed the agenda for the ALO's general conference in 1992. "The agenda calls, among other things, for greater attention to be given to the rehabilitation and employment of handicapped people and to the area of health safety education," Rasoul said.

The board also decided to refer the recommendations and resolutions issued by the organisation to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva and to update these resolutions for the ILO's 78th meeting to be held in June 1991.

Taking part in the meeting, which was opened Sunday by Minister of Labour Qasem Debsay, were delegates from the governments of Algeria, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt and Sudan as well as representatives of employers in Syria, Yemen, Jordan, Libya and Tunisia. An ALO delegate was present.



PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS 4TH ROYAL MECHANISED DIVISION: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Wednesday visited one of the units of the Fourth

Royal Mechanised Division where he was received by the commanders of the division, the unit and its officers. Prince Mohammad was briefed by the unit's commander on the training process at the unit.

Communist Party disowns its secretary's statements on Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Communist Party has disowned itself from statements by Yaqoub Ziadin, the party's secretary, published in Al Khaleej newspaper on Nov. 30, in which he gave controversial views about the Gulf situation.

"These statements expressed Ziadin's personal views and not those of the Communist Party," a party statement said.

The statements in Al Khaleej daily drew strong criticism from Jordanian journalists and columnists, in Jordanian dailies, who considered these views as running contrary to Jordanian official and popular thinking.

"The Jordanian Communist Party's Political Bureau held a plenary session, under Ziadin's chairmanship, during which it discussed the repercussions and the implications of the party secretary's views, and decided unanimously that they represented his own personal views and not those of the Jordanian Communist Party," the statement here said.

The statement pointed out the following points which, it said, constitute the party's official

views and principles with regard to the Gulf crisis: a) The greater danger threatening the Gulf and the Arab region at large stems from the presence of the American and NATO forces deployed in the Arabian peninsula. A war in the region would bring about a major catastrophe to the countries in the region, and therefore the main task now is to mobilise Arab efforts to prevent such a war and try to terminate the presence of the foreign forces. b) To ensure that, it is incumbent on the Arabs to hold an Arab dialogue, involving all Arab parties, so that the Iraqi military and economic power can be safeguarded and at the same time the Kuwaiti people's self-determination guaranteed. c) The international legitimacy should be implemented on equal footing to all issues involving occupation, in a manner that would ensure the simultaneous withdrawal of all the Israeli forces from the occupied Palestinian land, and the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. d) Democracy should permeate all Arab countries so that the rights of the masses to free expression and

participation in the decision-making process can be guaranteed, especially in matters related to their destinies. Furthermore, the Arab oil wealth should be utilised in a manner to benefit the socio-economic development process in the Arab World. e) Jordan's position and its steadfastness should be supported in the face of all dangers and against the sanctions the country is now facing.

Ziadin was criticised in the local press for condemning Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, for saying that the Iraqi move "offered the United States a golden opportunity to send its forces to the Gulf," for accusing the Iraqi troops of looting Kuwait in a manner unprecedented even during Israel's continued occupation of the Palestinian lands, and for likening the Iraqi presence in Kuwait to that of Israel in the occupied Arab lands.

Columnists accused Ziadin of going against the current of political thinking in the Arab World and of taking an illogical course. Al Khaleej daily is published in the United Arab Emirates.

Seminar on children safety issues recommendations

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national seminar on children's safety in the home organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) ended here Wednesday with a set of recommendations urging the public and private sectors to contribute towards the improvement of the children's status and pave the way for creating a better future for the young generation.

"The Ministry of Health is called on to work out an information system or a data bank monitoring children's incidents in the home, giving information about their causes, and types of incident, to be followed by studies designed to reduce the occurrence of these incidents and introduce measures to ensure their safety and protection," said one of the recommendations in a statement issued at the end of the closing session.

The statement voiced the participants' call for including the children's safety as a subject matter in universities and higher education institutions' curricula, and urged the Ministry of Education, the Health Ministry, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to introduce leg-

islations giving specifications for children's nurseries, and kindergartens with regard to safety measures, types of premises suitable for children and equipment to be available as educational aids.

The statement underlined the need for the concerned authorities to keep strict control over children programmes presented through the media, and suggested special committees be set up to maintain control over them and give advice to children to avoid accidents at home.

The statement also highlighted the role of voluntary organisations which, it said, can produce informational materials providing advice on health and education to children to be carried out in cooperation with the NHF and Yarmouk University.

The NHF's Health Communications Project, which was launched in 1986, prepared for the seminar during which working papers were reviewed and experts' views presented. The seminar was meant as a means to help develop a comprehensive national programme incorporating and coordinating the efforts of all institutions and organisations engaged in the child safety in the home campaign.

ACC, Algerian bank discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — An official delegation from the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) left Amman for Algiers Wednesday on a 10-day visit at the invitation of the Algerian Bank for Rural Development.

The delegation will examine Algerian experiments in giving credit to farmers, will tour a number of institutions and discuss cooperation between the ACC and the Algerian bank.

The ACC is one of several Jordanian institutions which lend money to local farmers at very low interest rate.

In view of the current economic conditions and the decline in agricultural exports to the Gulf countries, the ACC and other money-lending institutions in Jordan are currently making arrangements for re-scheduling loans due to farmers which altogether are estimated at JD 40 million.

The ACC delegation groups the corporation's Administrative Director Mohammad Arabiyat and two other senior officials.

Major victims of a war in the Gulf would be civilians, with 200 American soldiers dead per week, says IPPNW group

Physicians' delegation says it is imperative to avert war in Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — A self-described task force for peace representing physicians headed for Baghdad Wednesday saying it was imperative to avert a war in the region over Kuwait since civilian casualties in a military conflict could be as high as 100,000.

"Our assessment indicates that the medical consequences of a war in the Gulf have not been considered in the equation of confrontation," said Bernard Lown, co-president and founder of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and leader of the task force.

"We believe that the major victims will be civilians because in modern warfare, and in a war in the Gulf, the ratio between civilian and military casualties will be six to one," Lown told a press conference here a few hours before the team's departure for Iraq.

Lown pointed out that the medical facilities in the Middle East would be totally used out to meet a tiny fraction of the possible casualties in the event that the American-led multinational force launches an attack to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait.

John Pastore, secretary of the Boston, Massachusetts-based IPPNW, said he was "in direct communication" with Senator Claiborne Pell prior to embarking on the mission to the Gulf.

Pastore said he would report back to Pell, whom he described as very much interested in the group's efforts.

The IPPNW, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, aims at influencing international public opinion, particularly American, against war in the Gulf, Lown said.

According to Lown, most of the Americans have not "bought" the various arguments put forward by the Administration in defence of its move towards possible war in the Gulf against



An international peace delegation of physicians headed by Bernard Lown (centre) Wednesday holds a press conference in Amman (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Iraq. "Punishing individual leaders of countries, whatever their misdeeds, does not justify the killing of innocent bystanders," Lown said. "This will be our message to the American people."

"The American people also need to be aware of the data (of massive casualties) in the event of war in the Gulf," Pastore said.

In addition to Lown and Pastore, the "task force for peace" includes IPPNW Vice-President Ulrich Gotsch from Germany and Sergei Kolosnikov from the Soviet Union.

Addressing the press conference, other delegation members warned of the grave consequences awaiting the world if it allowed a conflict to break out in the Gulf.

No less than 60 million people in the world, mostly civilians living within the Gulf zone, will be directly affected by a conflict, said the delegation members stressing that the world lacks sufficient medical supplies to deal with the burns and other injuries that could result from this war.

"The effects of such a war would extend to vast areas of the world largely due to the pre-

sence of great amounts of mass destruction weapons being stockpiled in the region and on board the American, French and British war vessels in addition to those based in Turkey and Iraq," the delegation members said shortly before leaving for Baghdad.

"There are indications that there are more than 400 nuclear heads on board the ships and 350 more in Turkey's bases in addition to an unspecified number of nuclear war heads in Israel," they said.

Referring to their visit to Iraq and the countries of the region, the delegation's spokesmen said it was to warn the world against a war in the Gulf and to have a close-hand look at the situation besides discussing the issue with the leaders of the region. "We want to know the realities about the shortage of food and medicine in Iraq and to report about our findings to the rest of the world," they said.

An American doctor in the delegation said that the IPPNW was concerned with relaying to the American public the truth about the dangers inherent in such a devastating war which would be totally different from

the Vietnam war. He said that in the event of war no less than 200 American soldiers would die every week and the war could be prolonged for over six months. He said that the ecological effects of such a war could extend for centuries.

The spokesmen said their visit to Jordan was successful and that they had realised that the Kingdom had fallen victim to the Gulf crisis. This, they said, "very few people in the West realise."

The IPPNW, which groups 300,000 doctors from 71 countries including Jordan, is currently seeking to advocate peace, the destruction of all nuclear and other mass destruction weapons and peaceful solutions to various world problems.

During its stay in Jordan the delegation was guest of the Jordanian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

"This is the point we learned in our brief stay in Jordan. Without war, without a single gun being fired, Jordan is victimised profoundly. Forty per cent drop in GNP is similar to what has experienced by Poland and Czechoslovakia after the Hitlerians invaded. So Jordan is equivalent to a country which has already been invaded. Jordan is beginning to live in the rubble of a Gulf war that has not yet happened."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday received the IPPNW delegation and discussed with its members the general situation in the Gulf region, following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, and the dangers to people and the environment in the event of war breaking out in the Gulf.

Prince Hassan also talked about Jordan's sufferings as a result of the Gulf crisis, and the damage inflicted on the national economy as well as the Kingdom's continued endeavours to attain a peaceful settlement to the crisis.

Seminar tackles trade ties with the Soviet Union

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day seminar on trading with the Soviet Union began at the Amman Chamber of Industry Wednesday with the participation of representatives of the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) and other concerned parties.

JCCC Director Rima Khalaf reviewed the role of the corporation in facilitating the marketing of Jordanian products on Soviet markets and Mohammad Salameh from the Chamber of Industry reviewed measures that can ensure development of Soviet-Jordan trade cooperation.

The participants in the four-day meeting are scheduled to discuss ways of probing further into the possibility of marketing Jordanian products on Soviet markets in the light of a visit to Moscow recently by a trade delegation led by the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

According to chamber officials, the seminar is part of the current endeavours to find new markets for Jordan's products following the closure of these markets in the Gulf countries as a result of the Gulf crisis.



The seven children on a peace mission to the region hold up the scroll of their foundation which vows to dedicate itself to world peace. The children are in Amman awaiting visas to go to Iraq (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Children of the world go on peace mission to Iraq

By Debbie Lovatt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A multinational group of seven children has undertaken a mission to avert a war in the Gulf which they say could be catastrophic especially for children.

The children, aged between 14 and 16 years, are members of the Los Angeles-based Children as the Peacemakers Foundation. The group includes representatives from the Soviet Union, Japan, Turkey, Australia, the U.S. and Jordan.

The children "want to talk about negotiations and hopefully (Iraqi) President Saddam Hussein will act on behalf of the children of the world" to promote peace, Patricia Montandon, the founder and president of the foundation said.

The delegation has received notification from the Iraqi government that their trip has been approved and that they will meet President Saddam Hussein.

Addressing a press conference Wednesday in Amman, each child spoke of his or her desire for peace in the whole world. "We want peace for tomorrow, for our future, all over the

world," Aycha Uzel from Turkey said. Amanda Ellis, who has been living in Amman for three years but is American, said: "The future of the children, I think, is most important... because we're the next generation and what happens now will affect us most."

The children gave an account of what they would like to say to the Iraqi president when they meet him. "I want to tell (President) Saddam Hussein — I'd like to tell (American President) George Bush as well and all the other leaders — we need to have peace," said Ami Latona from Australia.

Asked how they felt about entering a potential war zone, Katya Lycheva from the Soviet Union, said: "There could be war. The situation is really very dangerous. We will speak to President Saddam Hussein."

Aki Kondo added: "It is our duty to go; we're peacemakers. We are not afraid."

Aki is Japanese and is adopted because her adoptive mother, Coco, was eight months old when the nuclear bomb was

dropped on Hiroshima and was unable to have children due to the effects of radiation.

The children lit a candle in the shape of a bishop's mitre with the image of a white dove on it and then unravelled a scroll. The scroll is signed by heads of state who the foundation has met since it was established in 1933. The scroll is headed with the words: "We hereby dedicate ourselves, our hearts and minds to world peace. We believe that all humankind deserves a future free from the threat of nuclear war or any war. We encourage peace between individuals and nations and clasp hands with the children of the world in a global effort to preserve the planet."

The delegation is scheduled to leave for Baghdad but although they know their visit has been accepted they have not received any visas so far.

The foundation also hopes to send a delegation to meet U.S. President George Bush. Letters have been sent to the White House but as yet no reply has been received, said Montandon.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition entitled "L'orient des cafes" at the French Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by Makarram Haghdouga at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Christmas shopping arcades organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation at Hotel Jordan Intercontinental (open 3 — 10 a.m.).

FILMS

Feature film for children entitled "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" at the American Centre - 4:00 p.m.

Feature film entitled "The Hunter" at the American Centre - 7:00 p.m.

The two-day symposium, he

Seminar tackles educational issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium on "educational wastage and economics of education" will open here Saturday, with the participation of educationalists from the Ministry of Education, Jordanian universities and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) which is organising the meeting in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

A spokesman for the UNESCO Regional Office here told the Jordan Times that 35 participants representing various institutions and the Ministry of Education would be reviewing several working papers dealing with the subject which is being discussed for the first time in Jordan.

said, will also deal with the educational system in the Kingdom, wastage of effort in education, expenditure on education in schools and the options for education investments.

"In addition, such topics as economic returns of investments in the educational field, vocational training and other related topics will be tackled by the educationalists," the UNESCO official said.

According to Dr. Wajih Al Farah, director of research and educational development at the Ministry of Education, several specialists from the private sector will take part in the meetings in their own personal capacity as "educational economists" is considered as a new scientific field of concern to all those involved

in the education process.

The Ministry of Education, Farah said, is currently seeking to reduce spending on education in Jordan with the help of research studies; several studies have already been conducted on school buildings towards meeting this end.

He said that other studies were being conducted on the cost of teaching students in the compulsory and secondary stages, and the cost of providing vocational training for each student at the ministry's vocational centres.

The Ministry of Education, he added, established a special department on the educational economics in light of the resolutions passed by the 1987 first educational conference.

Jordan Times

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Beyond the hills...

BEYOND Amman's three or four elite and prosperous hills live over one million Jordanians who cannot find enough to eat. These are shocking statistics in any country in the world, and even more so when the whole population of the country in question is little over three million. The statistics released by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) yesterday pointed at the Gulf crisis as one of the main contributors to this marked deterioration in our living standards. However, one cannot forget a few facts about this situation that were evidently at play in Jordan before Aug. 2. One of these facts is that 25 per cent of the population was already living below the poverty line before that date. Now we witness a five per cent increase in that figure. If one follows the chain of events it becomes obvious that Jordan lost a large percentage of per capita income during the past two years. The unemployment rate before Aug. 2 was unofficially computed at 20 per cent of the work force and although it could have doubled by now with the return of almost 140,000 expatriates, the problem was one to be reckoned with before the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

The statistics we face today are shocking not only in their human aspects, and they are tragic, but also in their political implications for this country. The marked decline of our economy with obvious repercussions on smaller family units will create more radical sentiments in the country. If history is to be learned from one can see indicators in the shift towards fanaticism and extremism in the country rising with the decline of the living standards of Jordanians.

In the seventies and eighties Jordan borrowed against promises of Arab aid that never materialised. What remained from these promises is an \$8.3 billion national debt and a majority of Jordanians angry with oil-rich Arab states which never fulfilled their pledges to help Jordan as a frontline state against Israel. That seems to have been one of the main contributors to the popular support Iraq enjoyed when it took over Kuwait. What we are faced with now is the possibility of an increase of that sentiment coupled with a more concrete resentment of Western inaction and lack of support for Jordan's repeated calls for a peaceful end to the Gulf crisis. If we accept realities for what they are: Richer Arab states will not help Jordan because of its balanced policy and the Western world will punish this country for its rejection of Western hegemony. But even then mistakes of the past should not be repeated. Each economic and political step taken by the Kingdom has to be taken with an eye to political and economic shifts in the country and ways to create policies to help Jordan deal with its difficult future. For although the past two years were obviously full of economic and political surprises the coming years will not be visiting us bearing gifts.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW that Washington has succeeded in transforming the Soviet Union into a small, insignificant country, and has completed its military buildup in the Gulf, the Bush administration is finding no need to conceal its true intentions in the Gulf, and in openly declaring its desire of destroying the Iraqi military power, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that it seems that Washington has also succeeded in silencing Paris and Peking after securing full support from London for its illegal actions and its threat to Iraq, because we are not hearing any other voices except that of Washington. Even the voice of the U.N. Secretary General has been stifled and nothing can be hoped from the Security Council to deal with the Gulf crisis in a fair and just manner, added the paper. The implementation of the Security Council resolutions is the sole responsibility of the United Nations organisations and not the United States which has sent its forces to desecrate the Islamic holy shrines in the Arabian Peninsula, said the paper. The paper expressed the view that the battle is drawing near and the Iraqi people do not stand alone vis-a-vis the aggressors and their allies because millions of Arabs will be ready to support Iraq by word and deed in bringing ignominious defeat to the Americans. The paper said that the Gulf region would be transformed into a vast grave, swallowing up the colonialist and the aggressors during the coming battle.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday appeals to the government to re-consider the case of the Jordanian expatriates working in the Gulf in general and in Kuwait in particular. Salah Abdul Samad calls on the government to either postpone collecting a \$6,000 from those expatriates required to do national service or to introduce arrangements allowing them to pay by instalments. The writer points out that the Jordanians in the Gulf are not earning as much as they used to before the Gulf crisis and those in Kuwait are finding it most difficult to come up with the required sum in hard currency in view of the present situation in the Gulf state.

Abdul Samad notes that Jordan wants the expatriates to remain in their jobs and not to come back and increase the number of unemployed people in the Kingdom and therefore he says there must be some kind of arrangement for these expatriates at least until the crisis is over. The writer stresses the need for not increasing the problem of unemployment in the country and says that a speedy measure in this respect on the part of the government is of dire importance at the moment.

Economic Forum

The adjustment of the adjustment programme

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

ONE of the main issues which the budget speech tried to highlight was that the economic adjustment programme really faltered but there was a very good "reason" for that, namely the Gulf crisis (which failed, however, to undermine the envisaged monetary targets). Of course there were reasons; nobody ever suggested, or will probably ever suggest, that the programme stumbled out of, for example, sheer negligence. If we write a new programme or adjust the present one and if it fails again, somebody will find some reason for that failure and he may be right. But, unfortunately, this will not change the nasty product: The failure of the programme.

The point is that any economic programme deals with the future, that is with the uncertain and unpredictable. Therefore, it must have a built-in mechanism to accommodate the unforeseen developments, especially in so turbulent an area like the Middle East. Otherwise, any student of economics will have the guts to write down the smartest adjustment programme, get a fat reward for that, and then get away with it as long as he realises he will be able to justify the failure of that programme and that his justification will be accepted.

For the record, certain elements have to be recounted. What happened in 1988, the year of the big economic crisis, was that an imbalance started to emerge in the external sector of our economy, which took the form of a shortage in foreign exchange reserves. Out of a plausibly naive trust in economic theories tailored originally and basically to advanced economies and without according due regard to their applicability to a developing

economy like that of Jordan, our policy-makers were seduced and misled into adopting currency devaluation as a remedy to that imbalance. Devaluation had triggered capital flight and thus aggravated the very problem which it was supposed to redress. Consequently, the imbalance had quickly matured into a full-fledged crisis and led to the summoning of the International Monetary Fund which worked an economic adjustment programme that has now to be adjusted.

In an article I published in its Nov. 24, 1990 issue, the Economist reviewed a very recent paper on the currency devaluation experience of 83 developing countries in the period 1965-85. The magazine noted that the paper made particularly interesting reading since one of its two authors Mr. Jaime de Melo, is a rising star in the World Bank and had overseen many of the bank's structural-adjustment loans to countries in Africa and Latin America. This is not the place to review the review of the Economist but the opening and closing clauses of that review will be more than sufficient for the purpose at hand. The opening clause reads as follows:

"For most of the past decade developing countries have devalued their currencies heavily at the behest of the IMF and the World Bank. That may have been a mistake."

The closing paragraph reads as follows:

"What the authors do not consider, however, is the link between nominal exchange-rate policy and the stability of the economy. Countries such as Mexico, which devalued repeatedly over the past decade, also experienced a bout of inflation and

erosion of international competitiveness after each devaluation. Though one-off devaluations may sometimes be necessary, the costs, in terms of inflation, greater macroeconomic uncertainty, and less investment, may be greater than are often thought and the benefits, at least for primary producers, do not seem as strong as devaluationists have often claimed."

Our IMF-sponsored adjustment programme was an inevitable product of an insane policy based on an unnecessary measure, namely currency devaluation. As such there will always be suicidal efforts and attempts to defend it and justify its failure. While the proponents of that programme and the policies which made it inevitable will distance it from the impacts of any negative unforeseen developments such as the Gulf crisis, they will ascribe to it the fruits of any positive unforeseen, and foreseen, developments, irrespective of their being related or not related to it.

In the past and present as well as in the future there has been and will be only one policy capable of guaranteeing the redressing of the imbalance which ignited the 1988 economic crisis without having to pay the terrible price of devaluation in terms of capital flight, overdevaluation, inflation, shattered economic confidence and the arrival of IMF and its impositions. That policy is the adoption of an aggressive commercial policy which tailors our imports of goods and services to our foreign exchange receipts. We can go on experimenting with our economy, but that will be at the cost of paying an even higher price and of being on a constant lookout for excuses and justifications.

Conservatives 'don't think much' of Bush

By Mike Feinsilber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ask prominent American conservatives what they think of George Bush's presidency and you get unanimity: They don't think much of it.

Increasingly, conservatives are dismayed over Bush's direction and going public with their feeling that he has betrayed what one of them, David Keene, calls "the ideological base of the Republican Party."

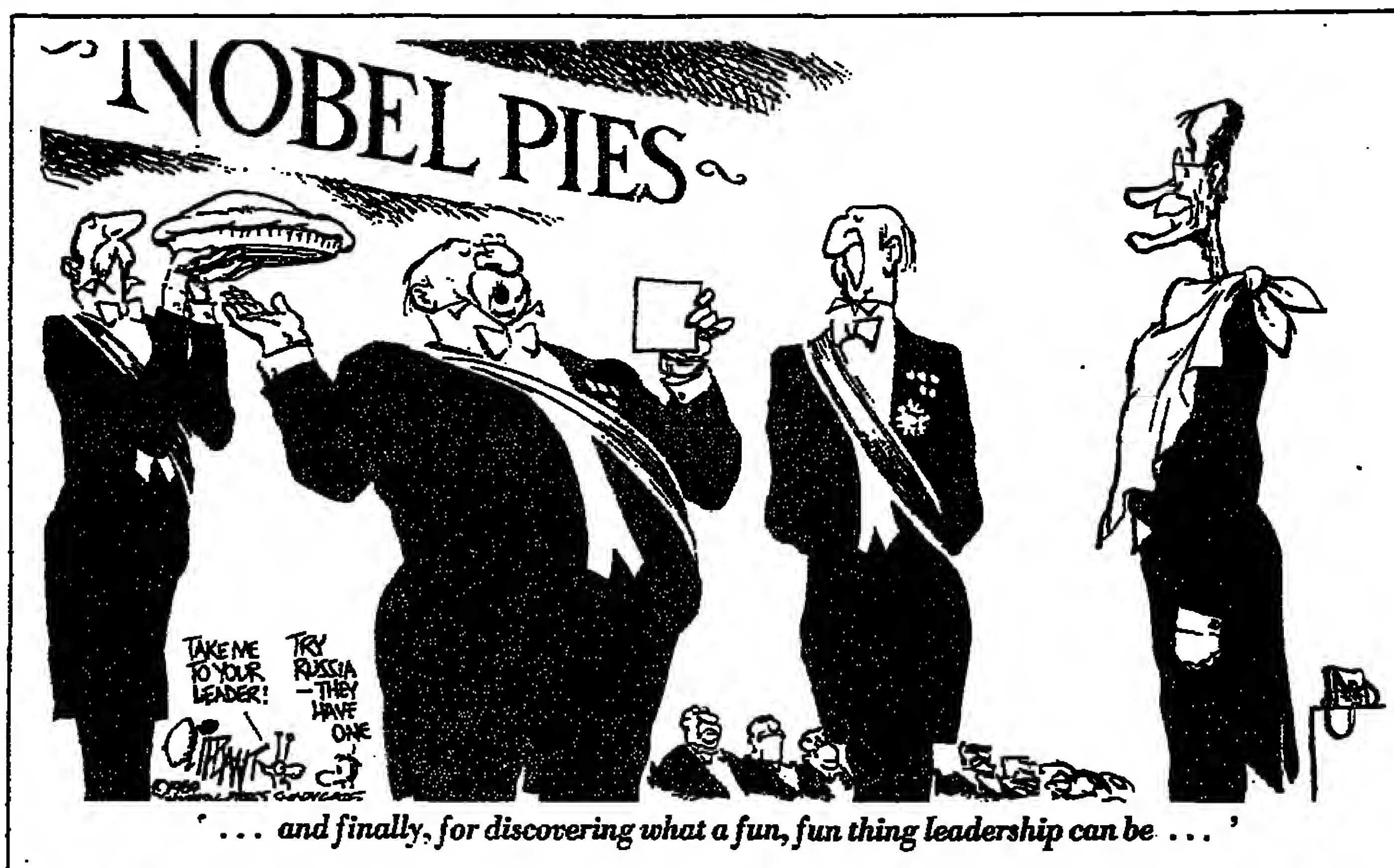
And increasingly they tell of hearing talk about running some true-blue conservative against Bush in the Republican primaries of 1992, if only as a token protest. They agree, that there's scant chance of denying him renomination.

It isn't only the president's abrupt abandonment last summer of his anti-tax stance that roils conservatives, although that rubbed them the most raw.

They also complain of the bill he signed to ensure the rights of disabled people — which they say smacks of welfare statism — and they point to Bush's programme to reinvigorate the clean air act, which they see as just so much more social engineering.

"Just too much government," is how Tom Winter, editor of the conservative newspaper, Human Events, summarised the American right wing's grievances.

Even more, the chemistry isn't right, Keene, chairman of the American Conservative Union, said conservatives feel that Bush remains "part of the establishment that most of these folks fought for so many years." They chafe over the White House's "cavalier dismissal of (Ronald) Reagan and all he ever stood for," he said.



And they resent the way the Bush administration treats conservatism "essentially as an interest group," Keene said.

The president's latest moves — the installation of moderates Lynn Martin as secretary of labour and Lamar Alexander as secretary of education — are unlikely to win any applause in the conservative camp.

When William Bennett, a true conservative hero, changed his mind last week and said he would turn down the offer to

become Republican national chairman, some Republican hard-liners assumed he'd been shoved overboard.

"It took Richard Nixon six years to destroy the Republican Party," Burton Yale Pines, vice president of the Heritage Foundation, told the Washington Times. "Bush has done it in two years."

To test the depth of dismay with Bush, a reporter telephoned conservative thinkers and read them this paragraph, written last week by conserva-

tive columnist Joseph Sobran, also a senior editor at National Review:

"Conservatives now spend most of their time trying to figure out how, and with whom, to replace Mr. Bush as soon as possible. They dread the prospect of his running again in 1992. Even more, they dread his winning. Many of them would rather see even a liberal democrat in the Oval Office, on the principle that your enemies can't betray you the way your friends can. And a Bush defeat would

allow conservatives to take back the Republican Party."

Those questioned didn't agree that they spend most of their time conspiring to dump Bush, but they all had heard such talk.

And all expressed dismay with the president's performance, especially on tax and domestic matters.

The about-face on "no new taxes" was the fulcrum of discontent.

R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr., editor of the American Spectator, called it "a gigantic error." Patrick

McGuigan, editorial writer for the Daily Oklahoman in Oklahoma City, said it was "capitalism." Winter labeled it a "fiasco." To George Gilder, economic idea man for conservatives, it was "appalling."

"When Bush abandoned that issue, he virtually destroyed the party," Gilder said.

The conservatives' complaint about Bush on taxes, said Martin Anderson, domestic adviser to Reagan, "is not that he didn't succeed but he didn't fight."

Still, conservatives aren't ready to lead an all-out rebellion, they said.

"Republicans are monarchists at heart," said Paul Weyrich, president of the Free Congress Foundation. "No matter how much the king may be unpopular, they tend to stay with the king."

But, said Pines, "if George Bush three months from now is doing the same things that George Bush is doing now, then Sobran will have turned out to be very prophetic."

Sobran's idea "is not a majority position," said Robert Bork, who was Reagan's rejected candidate for a Supreme Court seat.

"If Bush were defeated in '92 and democrats retained Senate control, they would have between three and four Supreme Court appointments, probably, and that means you'd have 20 or 25 years of an extremely activist Supreme Court and I don't think conservatives want that," Bork said.

"You can't beat somebody with nobody," said Anderson, now back at California's Hoover Institution on War, Peace and Revolution. "Does Sobran have a candidate?"

Israeli green card is prison without bars for Palestinians

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Many Palestinians fear Israel will one day drive them all out of the occupied West Bank — but increasing numbers face the opposite problem: The Jewish state will not let them leave.

Some 12,000 Palestinians who have fallen foul of the authorities are forced to carry green identity cards, barring them from going abroad or travelling to Israel, where many West Bank residents work.

The cards can have a devastating effect. Palestinians holding them may not even visit Jerusalem, the centre of their cultural and Muslim religious life and home to the area's best hospitals.

Security sources say the number of cardholders has soared by 50 per cent from 3,000 in October when police shot dead more than 8 Palestinians in Jerusalem, provoking a spate of revenge attacks by Arabs on Jews.

Jafar Hamiel, a U.S. passport-holder, cannot travel to America because he holds a green card. He cannot even visit the U.S. consulate in Israeli-annexed Arab East Jerusalem.

Hamiel says the military authorities switched his ordinary identity card for a green one because he held "nationalist sympathies."

The green cards are an Israeli weapon in the intifada — the three-year-old Palestinian revolt against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Residents of the Gaza Strip have been unable to cross into Israel without a special magnetic pass since mid-1989.

"Look at this," said Hamiel, pointing to the Hebrew words an Israeli official has written in his passport.

"It says I hold an Israeli identity card...if I show this at a checkpoint they will ask to see my card. Once they see it is green then it is finished for me."

Cardholders complain of harassment and beatings by police and automatic arrest if they are picked up during routine identity checks near the scene of unrest. The card immediately brands them a suspect in the eyes of the police.

The cards, introduced in 1988, are issued for up to six months and are renewable. They are often given to suspected activists and those who have been detained without trial in the past. Many detainees are given green cards on their release.

Palestinian human rights lawyer Jonathan Kuttab sees the cards as a form of collective punishment.

"It is a punitive measure, not a security need. Killings (of Israelis) are carried out by people without a record," he

said. Defence Minister Moshe Arens said cards are issued only to people with a record of engaging in criminal or "terrorist" activity.

"Letting these people work in the Israeli economy endangers the lives of Israelis," he told Reuters. He denied the cards were a punishment and said those issued with them could appeal to the army against the decision.

Last Saturday Arens revived another Israeli strategy to counter unrest, issuing deportation orders to four Palestinian activists in the Gaza Strip after Palestinians stabbed three Israelis to death in Tel Aviv.

Many Palestinians fear Israel ultimately wants to push them all out of the occupied territories and replace them with Jewish settlers.

Security sources say some Israeli administrators in the West Bank oppose the green cards, fearing they will fuel resentment and unemployment among Palestinians.

One administration said confining young men could turn the territories into a volcano.

"These kinds of feelings... would be justified if no Israeli had been attacked on the streets of Israel," said Arens. "People are simply afraid," he said, acknowledging intense right-wing pressure for tougher measures against Palestinians.

West gets Soviet guns, tanks, ammo — and MiGs

By Mark Fritz
The Associated Press

BERLIN — In an odd side effect of German unification, NATO pilots streak across the skies in perhaps the finest fighter plane ever produced by the Warsaw Pact.

To sleek and deadly MiG-29 is by far the most dazzling prize in the vast trove of weaponry that once belonged to the East German armed forces.

The 21 twin-finned Soviet jets, are still flown by Eastern German pilots, who now wear the uniforms of what was once West Germany.

When the two German nations reunited on Oct. 3, the former West German military was suddenly handed a large and varied collection of Soviet combat technology.

How valuable is it, now that the Soviet threat has abated? The question of more immediate import may be: will it give Germany's close ally, the United States, a clearer strategic picture of Iraq, which has much of the same Soviet-built hardware?

"If there were some windfall, it would not be very helpful to talk about it too much in the best interests of the United States," said Walter Reichenmiller, spokesman for the Defence Ministry. "Certainly... some findings are very interesting."

He and independent defence experts say, however, that little can be gleaned from East German weaponry that wasn't known already.

East Germans have been around a long time," said Andrew Duncan of the International Centre for Strategic Studies in London.

Reichenmiller said the most advanced tank Iraq and East Germany had in common, the T-72, was 18 years old.

The MiG-29 is fairly new to both the Iraqis and the East Germans, who got it in 1988.

Iraq is believed to have only about 30 among its hundreds of fighters, and they are so new the Iraqis may not have mastered them yet, Duncan said.

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"Most of the equipment the

Presumably, Becher said, they also are making information about its capabilities available. He said the Soviets even let a reporter from a Western Aviation Magazine fly a MiG-29.

The jet has an advanced radar system some experts believe may give it an edge on the American F-16.

"It's a pretty good aircraft," Reichenmiller said, adding that Germany routinely passes such information on the United States.

Right now, the 21 MiGs are being kept for research purposes. Reichenmiller said no decision had been made on whether to put the MiGs into active service, but that most of the East German arsenal — hundreds of tanks, older jet fighters, helicopters, guns and munitions — would be destroyed.

The German armed forces must shrink to comply with the international terms of unification. Keeping much of the weaponry in service also probably would require Germany to buy replacement parts from the Soviets.

Germany may keep the Soviet-made transport planes. Reichenmiller said the government has offered some to the United States for use in the Gulf.

He said Soviet transport planes were even being used for a daily shuttle service carrying government and military personnel from Bonn, the seat of government, to Berlin, the newly designated capital of the united country.

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Dec. 20, 1990 A

Haghondoga's paintings reflect everything hopeful, positive

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If a picture speaks a thousand words, then each of the 43 paintings by the Circassian artist Mukarram Haghondoga, displayed at the Spanish Cultural Centre, is worth a million.

Haghondoga's solo exhibition which opened last Tuesday contains paintings that are so vivid in colour they reflect everything that is positive and hopeful and uncomplicated.

Most of the paintings displayed are executed in water-

colours on canvas, paper or velvet backgrounds, and have extreme depth that one is enveloped into the atmosphere of every painting.

You see a painting of a hillside during spring with flowers in full bloom and you almost feel as if you are on that hill. Or you see a group of people wearing Circassian hats dancing and enjoying themselves and you find yourself drawn into the painting as though you are partaking in the action and the celebration.

Although Haghondoga paints her subjects in the

classic way, with complete respect for perspective, it is the choice of colours that varies. You see a painting of poppies that are peach in colour instead of the deep crimson that is characteristic to this flower.

"I interpret scenery in my own way, and the colours that I paint reflect the way I feel about a certain subject," Haghondoga explained.

She added that she always takes photographs of her garden, of members of her family and of scenery and then paints them, putting on canvas not an exact copy of the

scene but what she feels when she looks at it, which in a way makes her paintings a reflection of her spirit and soul.

Some of the painting techniques, used by Haghondoga, have captured the features usually unique to photographs. One of her paintings of flowers in a vase is implemented on a velvet background. The velvet material managed to diffuse the water-colours in such a way that it gave a hazy atmosphere, making the painting look like an unfocused photograph. Yet once again capturing the beautiful colours of the flowers.

The choice of colours is not the most significant feature of Haghondoga's paintings though. The transparency of the colours used is what gives the paintings a new dimension.

So each petal drawn has depth, yet it is so lightly painted that the viewer could see that the artist has indeed captured the delicate feature of these petals. But the soft strokes are not only on the flowers but also the way the human subjects have been painted.

On the portraits Haghondoga painted, she used the same fine strokes to capture expressions, which unlike the dainty strokes are expressions showing strength, and determination.

For example, in one of the portraits, there stands a Circassian man, proudly displaying his traditional dress.

Haghondoga does not only reflect her Circassian heritage, she also paints subjects from places she had lived in.



Mukarram Haghondoga

In some of the paintings are people wearing traditional Kuwaiti dress with a marketplace as background.

The artist also captures the Kuwaiti beaches, in paintings full of tranquility yet drawn with hard and fast strokes, that add life to the paintings.

All the paintings displayed have enough "white space" that make each and every one of them comfortable to the eye because each frame is not overcrowded with items to compete for attention.

Although framed, the paintings do not give the impression that they are "restricted" in any way. On the contrary, some of the paintings seem to extend outside their frames because of the

positive atmosphere they convey.

Haghondoga, was born in Jordan. She studied with the Italian artist, Armando, for one year, and continued at the Institute of Fine Arts in Amman.

Haghondoga has participated in many art exhibitions with other artists and also held a few solo art exhibitions before. The artist was also awarded the silver medal of appreciation at an exhibition held by the Jordanian Artist's Association, during one of the Jerash Festivals.

The exhibition which was opened under the patronage of the Spanish ambassador, D. Ramon Armengod, will continue until Dec. 27.



One of the artist's paintings currently on display at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Wonders of the Louvre: The moulding workshops

By Pierre-Albert Lambert

PARIS — The tourist, who leaves Paris with a head of Nefertiti or a crouching Aphrodite from the Louvre Moulding Workshop in his luggage, little knows that he owes them to the French Revolution. When the convention created the Museum of the Republic, in 1793, it added a reproductions department aimed at "facilitating knowledge of masterpieces, among the public."

The Louvre Moulding Workshop (and its reserves), are housed in the basement of Palais de Chaillot, built in 1937, for the Universal Exhibition. A dozen craftsmen from the plaster and sculpture trades, make some 50,000 items here every year.

"All of them are handmade. You will not see any tools on the workbenches," Guy de Charron, head of the department, points out. "We have 300,000 customers all over the world. They go from the private individual who wants to decorate his mantelpiece or stand an Apollo in his garden, to universities and art academies. Our main buyers are in the United States, Japan and Germany. A museum of antiquities is, at present, being created in that country, with our collections."

"If the techniques of moulding barely change, on the other hand, there have been considerable developments in the materials used for the impressions and for

making the moulds, as well as for the casts themselves. Polyester and silicon resins (which retain and perfectly restore a fingerprint) are now in common use," explains Jacques Laurent, head of the workshop, who was awarded a diploma for being one of the best craftsmen in France.

Works made of synthetic resin are cast, reinforced, repaired, and develop a patina just as easily as plaster. They are much stronger and resist the ravages of climatic conditions.

The rich and varied collection is not limited to works in the Louvre. A large part is made up of works from foreign and provincial museums. The casts of works which no longer exist today, or which have been irretrievably mutilated, make them invaluable documents.

The patina process, carried out using an ancient technique, gives the plaster, resin, bronze or terracotta its final colouring. It demands a steady brush stroke as well as a mastery of the use of colours. The craftsman has about twenty natural pigments, bronze powder and lacquer gum varnish, at his disposal. The final finish comes from a pigment-laden wax glaze. It takes about three hours to give the patina to the torso of a Venus one metre high, by

stroking it with a delicate, fine brush.

Visiting the reserves is impressive. Faced with the kilometres of shelves on several levels, containing lines of casts (about 4,000 in all), from the huge tympanum of Chartres Cathedral to the tiny Indian ivory statue measuring just 3 centimetres, one would think one was in the catacombs, were it not for the bright light illuminating them. The collection composes an exceptional repertoire of world sculpture, from the ori-

gins to the 20th century. The rich and varied collection is not limited to works in the Louvre. A large part is made up of works from foreign and provincial museums. The casts of works which no longer exist today, or which have been irretrievably mutilated, make them invaluable documents.

"Beware of imitations! The pieces leaving our workshops have been moulded from the original works and they bear

our stamp," De Charron stresses. "Copies abound, alas. Some of our productions are used for making new moulds in the United States, and are then sold again on the French market. We can do nothing against such practices, as there is no legislation against them."

"Our best-sellers? Egypt is in fashion. The 'Bastet' cat, moulded from a superb bronze carved around 1080-332 B.C.; 'Nebmetuf, the royal scribe' (around 1370 B.C.), and the magnificent 'spoon with the swimmer' (around 1400 B.C.), from an original in wood, are very popular."

"For Greek sculpture, the Winged Victory of Samothrace and the Venus de Milo remain highlights. Their casts can be obtained on request, life-size: three metres high for the former and two metres for the latter, or reduced down to 15 centimetres. After these two stars comes the very fine head of the 'winning athlete', from a bronze from the 5th century B.C."

"A few centuries on, the Rabbit by A.L. Barye (1796-1875) is a great hit. The same is true of the Spanish Dancer by Degas (1834-1917)."

"And then there are Mariannes" (symbol of the French Republic), Guy De Charron concludes. "Schools, townhalls and private individuals always order a lot of them from us. In the 70s, the Marianne, who was given Catherine Deneuve's fea-



The craftsmen at the Louvre Moulding Workshop produce 50,000 items each year.

tures, replaced the previous one, modelled on Brigitte Bardot. But, for the last two years, B.B. has made a great comeback and regained first

position."

"Is this an effect of nostalgia? Or a harking back to the 50s?" — L'Actualite en France.

War and Peace

By E. Yaghi

AS the pendulum of time moves ever closer to the climax of the Gulf crisis, two men, one the distinguished Sir War and the other, a mere pauper, Peace, decided to engage in a discussion concerning the advantages of the tenets they both tried to spread.

It was decided one cold December evening, to hold this dialogue in the grand estate of Sir War, for he was extremely rich and naturally, because of his great fortune, could afford to lavish his guest with every conceivable hospitable attention. Peace, on the contrary, had no home, was very poor and could afford to entertain no one. After his arrival, Peace and Sir War sat near a crackling fire place that sent the smell of burning pine throughout the room as dry branches popped in the blazing fire.

"I say now. Not much point really to our conversation is there, my friend?" Sir War queried as he smoked a feathered pipe drawing long deep puffs and studying his guest, Peace.

His eyes downcast, Peace now looked up at Sir War. "Well, Your Highness, I guess there might not be. It seems inevitable that you soon will be called upon and I fear too many love your name. There are few powerful persons who love me. Each day I grow thinner and each day I feel something of me dies. I soon will be too weak to move and I'm afraid my last days are coming soon. If there is a conflict in the Gulf, perhaps my name will become just a memory. But look at you! Time hasn't been kind to you, for you are old looking, and hate has turned you ugly and you have been fattened by the misery of others. You're dressed in the finest silk, are ringed with gold, rubies and diamonds and wear a crown of emeralds on your head. You even wear gold slippers," Peace said as his eyes scanned Sir War. "Look at your dwelling. Why, it's not a normal abode, it's a gigantic castle built with the funds of all the battles fought in your name from the beginning of time."

Sir War flashed a look of contempt at Peace and sneered, "well, look at you! Your appearance is that of a beggar. Your garb is torn, ragged and full of holes. Even though you still look young and handsome, your beauty is destroyed by your poverty. Of course you have no home, for you roam the world trying to gather followers to your hopeless cause and naturally, Peace is not profitable. Your efforts are useless. Might as well give up. No one's listening to you! Now, look at me. No matter what my appearance is, I have statesmen, kings, dictators, presidents and prime ministers who worship me. War is a booming business! My coffers are full, I am never hungry and I eat the best and most expensive food, wear the best clothes, I am warm in winter and cool in summer. Come and live with me and I'll make you one of my slaves as I did Freedom and Democracy and you'll never hunger again nor feel the icy winds of winter, nor the hot rays of the summer sun."

Noble Peace slumped in despair and he answered in a small voice, "never! I still have the hope that one day you will be defeated, that the world will come to its senses and destroy all the pain and suffering you cause, once and forever, and make me, Peace, their precept to live by."

Sir War's fat stomach bounced up and down in laughter as he roared, "I, defeated, impossible! Even though you are young and I old, I shall live until the end of time, for I share power with Satan while you have no power of your own. Who loves you but insignificant souls who don't matter anyway!"

Peace's eyes flickered in anger and he said with some confidence: "But most of the world loves me. Little children sing me songs and string flowered necklaces in my honour and all the good people in every country around the world, praise my name and long for my presence!"

"Bah! Rubbish! What are the miserable masses? They're not important! What power do they give you? What have you done to improve civilisation?" Sir War demanded.

"Everything! In my name, neighbours love each other. Spouses live together and bring forth children born of love who grow up respecting their elders, crops are planted, animal life is encouraged and protected and love is spread among nations throughout the world! What good have you accomplished?"

Sir War's face grew intense as he replied, "what nonsense you speak! I spread hate and evil. Do you think I grew rich and fat spreading goodness and love? You are surely mad! People invent in my name new weapons to destroy each other. Who cares for the helpless meager masses? Who needs peace and love?" His voice grew thicker and his eyes narrowed in small slits as he continued, strengthened by his cause. I make the rich, richer. I give more power to ruthless dictators and in the names of my slaves, Freedom and Democracy, I disperse the postulation that the weak should be enchained by their masters. Poverty, despair and ignorance must rule the world."

Horror-stricken, Peace seemed to grow smaller and his voice, weaker. "But the more power you have, the closer you are to destroying the whole world. What then will you do without the world to keep you rich and fat? There can be no more wars if there aren't any more people left to fight. You will then become poor and thin like me and even die!"

Sir War stopped puffing his pipe and choked on the black smoke. His face turned blue as he gasped for breath and then in a raspy voice, said, "no, you fool! There will always be a world. Many may die, but many will yet survive and my power will increase. I will continue to build my castle bigger on the bones of the dead. Those who survive will be my slaves. It is you who are dying. It is you who have no hope. I have hatred and evil to fight my battles and they are much stronger than reason, compromise, peace and love. Come and live with me. We can be friends and accomplish more. Between us we'll rule the entire world! Don't forget, monuments have been erected in my name and widows and orphans have cried at my tombs."

Peace looked incredulously at Sir War. "If you prevail in the Gulf and blood-thirsty warmongers have their way, there will not be much of a world left and even you will die, for poverty, despair and starvation will become a plague. There won't be much of anyone left to fight anymore. There won't be all those warmongers and warlords left to keep the fires of war burning and keep your coffers as well as your stomach full. Instead of having a partnership controlled by the devil and full of hate and death, let's make a partnership of peace and love and plant our beliefs like beautiful flowers, throughout the world. You'll grow used to the laughter of little children and be pleased by the smiles of happiness on every face."

"Never! As you cannot join me, neither I, you. As I thought, our conversation is useless," Sir War said in frustration as his bald head shone under the huge chandeliers which lit the endless room. He turned his head in disgust, clapped his huge hands which jangled with the sound of gold, diamond bracelets and rings and shouted, "slaves, bring me my supper. I am ravished!"

He then turned his head back again to ask Peace what he would like to eat before he departed, for Sir War was a hospitable person and never turned a guest away hungry. But, he was met with an empty fireplace. The fire smouldered and the former flames of warmth curled up in black clouds of suffocating smoke and the great hall grew suddenly cold as death. The one thousand lights of the exquisite chandeliers grew dim and the vast castle of Sir War seemed dank and lifeless. Peace had disappeared. Had he been just a figment of Sir War's imagination? Had he ever really existed after all?

Memory—friend or foe?

By Maha Addasi

Don't you sometimes feel that your memory is working for someone else. Someone who probably pays it more. Like maybe the "other side," the enemy perhaps? Because when you need to remember something of vital importance, like your employer's name for example you could sit there and grope for minutes on end before the name may or may not present itself.

"I'm pretty sure it starts with a letter," you would say. This is of course the very same memory that if asked what you were wearing when you were five and got yourself locked in the bathroom at the park, while on a school trip, and everyone laughed at you when you finally got out, it would remember in excruciating detail: It was a pink dress with white polka dots with a matching hair ribbon and I was carrying a small bag full of peanuts, almonds, cashews, licorice. And the first and last names of all the kids who laughed, are etc. Not that you spent time trying to memorise the names but your brain threw them into the bank of selected memories just for the heck of it!

The problem is that your brain cherishes these embarrassing moments and never lets you forget them.

You could be sitting there peacefully watching TV when an embarrassing memory comes out for a "walk," and suddenly you have that chilly sensation that you have relived trillions of times before ever since the incident occurred.

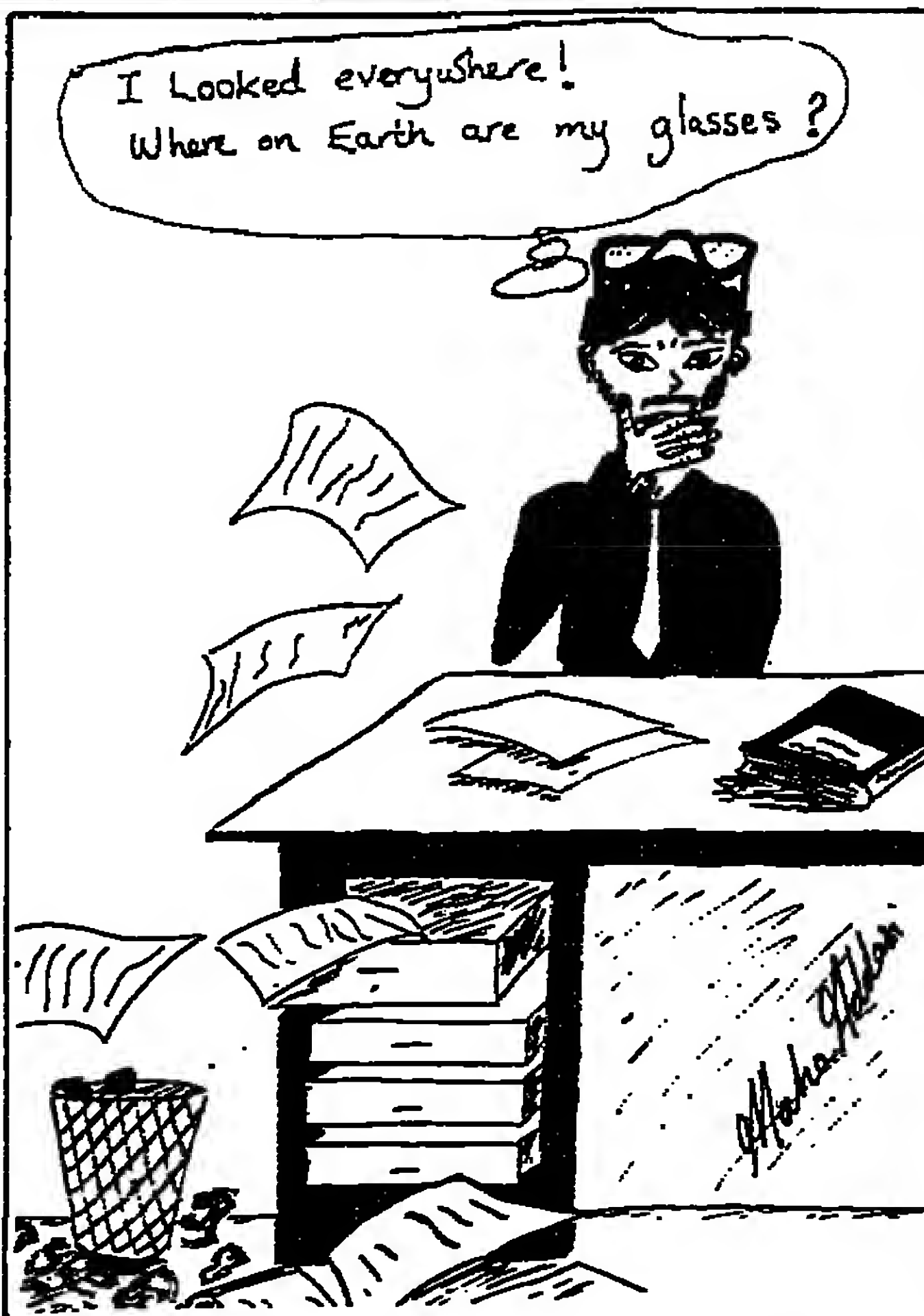
To me, memories like this are killer sharks that resurface every so often and threaten to eat a chunk of my sanity.

Like the time, for example when I was told that a thesaurus was not a type of dinosaur. Here I was writing an essay, using the word left and right and as it turned out, the word was "slightly" out of context. Oh, the disgrace I felt was never matched until I walked into another sticky situation some time later.

It was while shopping when I found just the jacket I was looking for and took it to the dressing room to try it on and discovered the pockets had some reading glasses in them. It dawned on me then that the jacket already belonged to someone in the store. So how was I going to explain that taking the jacket was an innocent mistake without looking like a complete fool?

As it turned out the jacket belonged to an 80-year-old woman who had tears of joy in her eyes when I brought back the jacket, and apologised profusely for the mix-up. And I watched as the woman backed out of the store keeping her eyes on me, with a suspicious look in them until she was completely out of the store.

Then there was the time when I invited some friends over and volunteered to pick them up. They had come from Kuwait just after the crisis and were in a very depressed mood as it was. They didn't need me to add to their "high spirits." Going back home I took a wrong turn. Trying to remedy the situation I took another turn in the correct general direction. Don't ask me how, but we ended up at the top of a hill with pitiless valleys on three of the four sides. The problem is that we got stuck there. I could not reverse out, nor turn the car around. And our chances of falling into one of the valleys was, I'd say, 98 per cent. My poor "guests" were as white as tiles with terror. I wouldn't have blamed them if they had silently sneaked out of the



car and run off.

How do I manage situations like this? I was so embarrassed I felt as small as an ant. It would have been wonderful if someone had just stepped on me and finished the job. But of course one doesn't get breaks like this in real life. One suffers till there is no longer any traces of dignity left.

Anyway, inch by inch and with a miracle to boot, I managed to get out of that "steep" situation, but when the visit was over my friends took a taxi home!

Of course, my chances of ever forgetting this event are next to nothing, especially now that it's in writing.

The problem with incidents such as these which make one feel extremely self-conscious is that they haunt you for an eternity. Sure you die a thousand deaths as you go through the same scenario over and over again, with different ways and means you could have utilised to avoid those embarrassments and save your face. If only you could go back now and fix it all.

The truth is, memory, good or bad, makes up a part of human nature that, like it or not, we must learn to live with. But if there is ever a time machine invented, please let me know. I'm going to go back in time in hopes of retrieving my dignity and sanity. At least I would rewrite a certain essay. Until that invention and just for the record I meant to write "brontosaurus" not "thesaurus" in that essay, I swear!

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 20

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

Cliff wakes up at night for a sandwich meal. His wife votes against the sandwich explaining it would cause nightmares. She isn't far from the truth.

9:10 The Black Forest Clinic

Bank robbers kidnap Prof. Bregman and ask him to operate on their injured friend, he does his job well before the police arrive.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Hollywood Detective

Starring: Telly Savalas

Old Harry, who used to star in detective movies, tries hard to play detective role, at the request of a friend only this time the game is for real.

Friday, Dec. 21

8:30 Coach

Luther entrusts Hayden with his parrot. The parrot flies away and Hayden suffers a lot to bring it back to little avail.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Detective In The House

Freddie conceives of a plan to kill his rich uncle and

inherit his wealth, but later he realises there is another contending heir around it and decided to eliminate him.

Saturday, Dec. 22

8:30 Good Morning Miss Bliss

Miss Bliss is an obvious candidate for the Best Teacher prize. In fact she is such a good teacher that she almost flows the prize away.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Feature Film

Children Of A Lesser God James Leeds is a young energetic teacher in a deaf institution who had to fall in love with a stubborn student in order to be able to teach her well. It is a challenge, that ends in romance.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Cont. of the Feature Film.

Sunday, Dec. 23

8:30 Open House

Dome Sweet Dome Linda and Ted are working hard these days in the real-estate business and one day they travel far to meet a client... and what a client he turns out.

9:10 The Great Journeys

The Ho Chi Minh Trail.

which ran through Laos and Cambodia was vital for the VietKong in their war against the Americans. But in peaceful times it has been diverted to agriculture and became a symbol of post wars.

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Magistrate

Once again Judge Paolo proves that blood is thicker than water and even risks his life to save his son, and makes amends with him.

Monday, Dec. 24

8:30 Golden Girls

Rose wants so much to become St. Olaf's Woman of the Year, and when her friends alter some facts about her qualifications, Rose refuses that and pulls out of the race only to win the title in the ends.

9:10 Biederbeck Connection

Mr. Chablin discovers that most of the donation money intended for the school is stolen... and he doesn't care much about that.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Derrick

Lisa almost gets killed and suspicion hovers over her younger husband as he is in love with another woman. But Derrick's investigation

Tuesday, Dec. 25

8:30 Charles In Charge

Charles receives three old friends of him in his house. Soon he, and all the rest, discover that these friends are bad ones... and Charles does something about this.

9:10 Documentary

Beyond The Wall

An interesting documentary that sheds some light on the old cultural life-style of the Mongols in northern China.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Feature Film

Wednesday, Dec. 26

8:30 After Henry

Phone Calls

Mother Sara decides one day to connect an answering machine to her phone... little does she know that this can mean trouble.

9:10 Economic Perspective

10:00 News in English

10:20 A Quiet Conspiracy

Carter, now, is determined to find out all about Bloch whose real name is Nils, a NATO agent.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Dec. 20

1912 — London Peace Conference between Turkey and Balkan states.

1922 — Fourteen republics of Russia form Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

1951 — France sends 20,000 troops to Algeria.

1957 — European Nuclear Energy Agency is inaugurated.

1973 — Spain's Premier Luis Carrero Blanco is killed when assassins bomb his car Madrid.

1986 — Up to 30,000 students march for democracy through streets of Shanghai in China's largest demonstration since era of Cultural Revolution.

1989 — 12,000 U.S. troops deployed to Panama join 12,000 U.S. troops already in place to confront the government of General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Friday, Dec. 21

1832 — Egyptian forces rout Turkish army at Battle of Konieh.

1898 — Radium is discovered by scientists Pierre and Marie Curie.

1921 — Russia and Turkey form alliance.

1942 — British 8th army reoccupies Benghazi in Africa in World War II.

1953 — Iran's former Premier Mohammad Mosaddegh is sentenced to three years in prison for trying to lead revolt against Shah.

1960 — Saudi Arabia's premier Emir Faisal resigns, and King Saud takes over government.

1972 — East and West Germany formally sign treaty ending more than two de-

cadates of official enmity.

1975 — Terrorists raid meeting of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Austria. Eleven delegates and others are taken hostage, and two guards are killed.

1988 — Sudan government confirms it aborted coup attempt previous week and arrested participants in plot.

1989 — Nicolae Ceausescu declares state of emergency in Timisoara after tens of thousands of protesters fill the streets in another night of mass demonstrations.

Saturday, Dec. 22

1790 — Russian troops capture Ismail, Russia, from the Turks.

1905 — Insurrection of Moscow workers; revolution in Persia begins.

1929 — Round table conference opens between British Viceroy and Indian party leaders on dominion status for India.

1942 — U.S. heavy bombers raid Japanese-occupied Rangoon, Burma, in World War II.

1956 — Last Anglo-French forces leave Port Said, Egypt, following Suez War.

1958 — France and Egypt sign trade pact.

1963 — Greek liner Locomia catches fire and sinks in North Atlantic with loss of 150 lives.

1968 — Eighty-two crewmen of U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo are released by North Korea at Panmunjom, 11 months after their capture off North Korea.

1985 — Winnie Mandela, defying expulsion order, is arrested by police who drag her from Soweto, South Africa, home.

1988 — South Africa signs accord at United Nations granting independence to

Africa's last colony, which will become black-ruled nation of Namibia.

1989 — Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu flee Bucharest when Securitate forces fail to quell street protests by over 150,000 people in the Romanian capital.

Sunday, Dec. 23

1601 — Irish rebels Tyrone and O'Donnell are routed near Kinsdale by British forces.

1698 — George Lewis succeeds as elector of Hanover on death of Ernest Augustus.

1832 — French take Antwerp, forcing Holland to recognise independence of Belgium.

1861 — Sultan of Turkey agrees to unification of Moldavia and Wallachia as Romania.

1920 — French and British approve convention fixing boundaries of Syria and Palestine.

1940 — In World War II, Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill urges Italians to rid themselves of dictator Benito Mussolini.

1941 — U.S. forces on Wake Island in Pacific surrender to Japanese in World War II.

1948 — Tokyo's former Premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese World War II leaders are executed in Tokyo.

1961 — Typhoon hits Ceylon and southern India, causing heavy death toll.

1969 — Summit conference of Arab leaders in Rabat, Morocco, ends in disarray after quarrels over joint efforts to take action against Israel.

1972 — Earthquake that struck Managua, Nicaragua, is reported to have taken up to 10,000 lives.

1986 — U.S. aircraft Voya-

ger lands in California's Mojave Desert to become first aircraft to circumnavigate globe non-stop without refuelling.

1988 — Leftist guerrillas in San Salvador attack heavily guarded compound that houses Defence Ministry, killing at least three people.

1989 — U.S. sends 2,000 reinforcement troops to Panama to combat unexpectedly stiff resistance from Panamanian troops loyal to ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Monday, Dec. 24

1798 — Britain and Russia sign alliances against France.

1800 — Plot is uncovered in Paris to assassinate Napoleon Bonaparte.

1811 — United States and Britain sign Treaty of Ghent in Belgium, ending war of 1812.

1838 — Sultan of Turkey, with Russian support, limits authority of Milosh in Serbia.

1863 — Saxon and Hanover troops enter Holstein.

1866 — Schleswig-Holstein is incorporated into Prussia.

1899 — Canadian and Australian volunteers land in South Africa.

1937 — Japanese troops capture Hangchow in China.

1942 — French administrator of North Africa, Admiral Jean Darlan, is assassinated in Algiers.

1951 — Libya becomes independent federation under King Idris I.

1984 — Iraq cancels all flights to and from Lebanon because of inadequate security at Beirut International Airport.

1988 — Soviet Union opens talks with exiled King of Afghanistan in Rome about new peace plan for his war-torn country.

By The Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

PARTNERS IN RHYME

By Elizabeth Arthur

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Pterid | 1 Rainbows |
| 5 Flue | 2 Mousetraps |
| 10 Gussied | 3 Actor Ladd |
| 15 Cousin of etc. | 4 Changed the title of |
| 19 Run the show | 5 Gussied |
| 20 Flavour or taste | 6 Eng. cavalry sword |
| 21 Worries about | 7 Sam and Bad |
| 22 Soft drink | 8 Ems |
| 23 chub's | 9 Comes against the state |
| 24 headless horseman | 10 Gumbo |
| 25 Sew | 11 Kind of bird |
| 27 Upper house members | 12 Toward the north |
| 28 Was sick | 13 Sleep letters |
| 30 Having a jagged margin | 14 Sigmoid curve |
| 31 Stable girl | 15 Card game for two |
| 32 Rayed flower | 16 Fuss |
| 33 Lazy kid | 17 "Doe is me" |
| 35 Having the most | |
| 36 Using a paper towel | |
| 37 Extension of a subscription | |
| 38 Enjoy a book | |
| 39 Rhyme spoiler | |
| 40 Concede | |
| 41 One or another | |
| 42 He Jellies | |
| 43 Dem tree | |
| 44 "Auld Lang —" | |
| 45 Large weight | |
| 46 "Magasyary" | |
| 47 (P) president | |
| 48 Obliterate | |
| 49 Dressed to the | |
| 50 Figure of speech | |
| 51 Metal eaters | |
| 52 Assayers test them | |
| 53 Woodman at times | |
| 54 Events for bargain hunters | |
| 55 Rhyme for Fido | |
| 56 Laissez | |
| 57 Bemoaned | |
| 58 Jellies | |
| 59 Nail or Paul | |
| 60 Bond | |
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| 167 Rhyme for Fido | |
| 168 Laissez | |
| 169 Bemoaned | |
| 170 Jellies | |
| 171 Nail or Paul | |

Shakespeare is alive and well in London

By Robert Shelton

LONDON - Britain's most widely known export is not her fish, coal or tweed jackets but an Elizabethan stage genius named William Shakespeare. With his works known everywhere under the sun, million will be pleased to learn that what might be called a Shakespeare Theme Park is rising on the South Bank of the Thames.

But don't expect a Disneyesque amusement park with pinnacled castles, like those in the United States or Japan, or the one going up north of Paris. In homage to the bard, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre is being reproduced. And curiously, the Globe, with its open roof and odd Elizabethan cylindrical shape, is coming to life as the result of a tireless, often frustrating 20-year effort by an American actor named Sam Wanamaker.

Perhaps even stranger is the fact that Wanamaker's campaign to build a Globe replica was foundering until last year, when archeologists

discovered the sites of two other Shakespearean theatres, the Rose and the nearby original Globe, both destroyed long ago.

Archaeologists of the Museum of London unearthed parts of the stage on which plays by Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe and Benjamin Jonson were performed in the 16th century. They also uncovered the auditorium floor on which those early audiences stood only a few feet from the performers. Said actor Ian McKellen, whose work at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre gives him special authority, "It's not just that it is unique. It's that the Rose site is so rich and they're finding so much in terms of structure."

A last-minute drama unfolded when it was learned that a skyscraper was to be built on the 400-year-old site of the Rose Theatre. The Rose supporters raised such a hue and cry that the architects revised their design to allow restoration of the Rose beneath their modern

high-rise building.

The 1989 campaign to save the site of the Rose was spearheaded by McKellen, Simon Hughes, the area's member of parliament, and a flurry of stars. Even the ailing Lord (Laurence) Olivier was able to send his strong message of support "to save the Rose." (Lord Olivier died in July 1989.) As the preservation campaign gathered steam, notices appeared on billboards with the message: "Don't doze [bulldoze] the Rose." The campaign spread even to Hollywood, where 150 actors signed a petition.

Now, Wanamaker's dream of a reconstructed Globe is finally being realized. As he celebrated his 70th birthday the actor signed a contract worth \$10.2 million, and construction workers began to dig out the foundations of the Shakespeare Globe Centre. Said Wanamaker, "This is the second most important day of my life. The first will be April 23, 1992, when the Globe Centre will share its birthday with William Shakespeare."

The new Globe will include the "wooden O" theatre of Shakespeare, who was part owner of the original, built 12 years after the Rose. There will also be a second theatre, exhibition galleries, a bar and restaurant, apartments and shops.

Wanamaker explained his dream: "There are two projects on Bankside now. The Rose encloses what this Globe project is all about. There, you will see the stones of Elizabethan theatre. Here at the Globe Centre you will see the stones come to life. Watch us grow to be the most exciting new area in Great Britain."

The Rose was built in 1587 and was the first Elizabethan theatre to rise on the South Bank of the Thames, in the area called Bankside where an estimated one eighth of the city's population attended performances at nearby theatres.

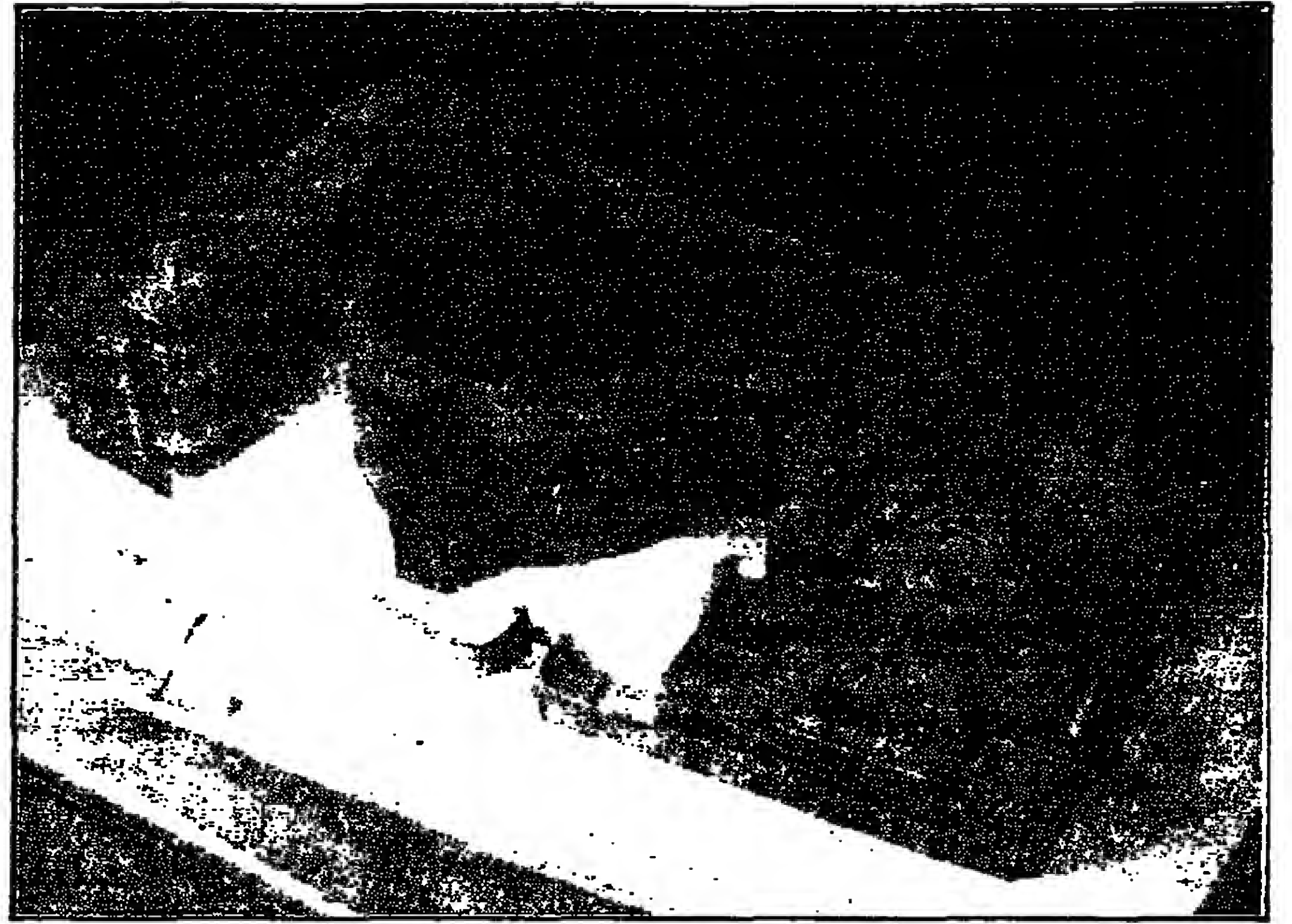
"The Rose will be a laboratory for the future in which to experiment with preservation methods, and that is what is very important," an architect

noted.

It was 40 years ago that the Chicago-born Wanamaker first visited London. The only sign he could find of the Globe Theatre site was a small plaque on the wall of a brewer's bottling plant. He found that insulting to the site where Hamlet, Twelfth Night, King Lear and Macbeth had first been performed. By 1970 Wanamaker had formed the Shakespeare Globe Trust, and many in London thought that this visionary from another land was merely eccentric.

The Globe Theatre will be built just across the Thames from another famous London landmark, St. Paul's Cathedral. There has even been talk of a footbridge over the river to connect the two shrines. Plans for the reconstruction are moving along, now that a corporate donation of about \$2 million has been secured.

But the struggle will be long remembered. In 1982, for example, the local council termed the entire project "elitist," preferring instead to earmark the area for public housing. But the climate has changed, as is typical in Britain. Now the nation is in the midst of a heritage boom, which has become so extensive that some people fear that Britain will become an island museum of its own history. The number of tourists



This model of the Globe Theatre Centre, to be built in London, should attract millions of fans, promoters say.

who visited Britain last year exceeded 17 million. The figure continues to rise steadily, supporting the contention of heritage advocates that they have tapped into a lode of spectacular history.

Explained Wanamaker of the rebuilt Globe, "We don't yet know whether people will mind some of the physical discomforts they may have to encounter here. Even so, we are going to try and recover those kinds of old experiences. This will be like doing Mozart on the instruments of his time" — World News Link.

Flutes, guitar bring echoes of Andes to New York subway

By John Wright
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andean Music, which for centuries was echoed off pristine south American mountain peaks, now fills gritty New York subway stations with haunting flute-and-string tunes.

Los Incas, a South American duo named for the Indians who dominated the Andes for centuries, are among a variety of musicians who perform every day in the underground subway stations, part of the city's mass transit system.

The Buskers' style and quality range the world: a classical violinist from Moscow, jazz saxophonists, flitting Caribbean pan drums, Argentine "tangueros," even a blind accordion player.

The Andean musicians, six-year veterans of subway playing, have learned that marketing savvy helps.

"We feel the wind, we know a train is coming. We set up songs. By the time the door opens, we're in the climax of the song," says Giovanni, whose long, black hair flows over a vest made of old brightly coloured blankets.

"We have to turn the songs into the speed of how people are rushing out (of the subway)," the 35-year-old Ecuadorian native explains as he waits for another subway train to whoosh into the station. "If you play slow songs, people don't stop and listen."

Clunk. Someone drops a handful of change into a guitar case.

One fan is 68-year-old Natolio Kotlar. "This kind of music is 1,000 years old," says Kotlar, who has heard many musicians from Argentina's Andean region in his native Buenos Aires.

Walter Penaranda, known as "El Vate," or the poet, plays alongside Giovanni with a zampuna, made of wooden flutes of different lengths blown together.

Both men are versatile. Giovanni, who didn't give his last name, mostly strums guitar but also plays wind instruments. El Vate, a native of Lima, Peru, also plays on other flutes which dangle from his neck.

Their music consists of variations of El Condor Pasa as well as Andean folk tunes and original compositions.

A half-dozen other

Andean groups also work the same territory Giovanni said.

He said that six years ago he lost his job as a government employee and teamed up to play music with a friend who had lost employment as a carpenter. "We got laid off and hit the streets," Giovanni said. He and his partner later split up.

El Vate said his lyrics sometimes reflect a brush with death he experienced after a motorcycle accident two years ago.

"I was in a coma for 17 days. In my dreams I saw two doors. I went through one door, I chose life," he said. He added that music helped "rebuild my life."

A song ends, and a little girl puts a coin in a musician's hand.

It's a fleeting kind of fame. Dozens of people sometimes crowd around. Some listeners leave the station or board a train, then a few passengers from the next flow stop a moment.

Some musicians concentrate on midtown stations, where they can attract good tips from commuters and tourists.

Others play in outlying neighbourhoods. Latin American musicians often show up in stations where their co-nationals live. The same applies for black and other ethnic music.

Subway musicians say the life is sometimes difficult.

"What we do is pleasurable, but it's also a hard job," said Giovanni. "We're on our feet long hours — extremes of weather, noise."

Also guards. Transit police remove musicians on occasion.

Although the U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld a ban on begging in the subways, the high court did not ban musicians from performing.

But officers may eject musicians if they're on a crowded platform and people are having trouble getting around them or if they use amplifiers, which violate the city's noise codes, said Bob Slovak, a spokesman for the city's transit authority.

"Police feel that this is not a job," Giovanni said with a touch of resentment. "Sometimes it's a seven-day, 12-hour a day job. We don't come here to make noise and fool around. We come here to earn and succeed."

Godfather III goes before the critics

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's coming out over budget, behind schedule and 16 years after its predecessor, but Paramount executives are betting The Godfather Part III will be a movie audiences can't refuse.

After a frantic month of editing and polishing, the final film in Francis Ford Coppola's mafia trilogy, was unveiled Wednesday to critics and movie theatre owners in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and other key markets across the country.

The response was mixed.

Disappointment ran higher among New York viewers, while those who watched in Los Angeles applauded.

The movie will open on Christmas Day on 1,800 screens in the United States and Canada. It originally was scheduled for a Thanksgiving release, but was moved back because of production delays.

For a while, it was uncertain whether Godfather III would be released at all this year. Paramount Pictures, gunning for the lucrative holiday market, decided to rush it out at the end of the year

after Chairman Frank Mancuso and other executives saw a rough version of the film in October.

"Without question, this is the one everybody's talking about," said John Krier, president of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. "Ever since Dick Tracy, all the talk has been about Godfather."

With preview screenings held this week, the movie qualifies for this year's award consideration from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and Los Angeles Film Critics Association.

The \$58-million film — triple the industry's average cost — was burdened with problems throughout production. Real-life lovers Al Pacino and Diane Keaton, reprising their roles as Michael and Kay Corleone, split up during the filming. Rising star Winona Ryder (Edward Scissorhands) was unable to costar as Michael's love-struck daughter because of exhaustion.

She was replaced at the last minute by Coppola's daughter Sofia, who had never had a major film role before. The first two Godfather

films are considered masterpieces of American cinema and either made or solidified the careers of some of today's leading actors, including Pacino, Keaton, Robert De Niro, James Caan, Robert Duvall and Talia Shire.

In the latest sequel, set in 1979, Michael Corleone attempts to bury his gangland roots but realises, "just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in."

Despite a \$100-million gift to the Roman Catholic Church and induction into an honorary church order, Michael soon finds himself plotting Vatican politics and Sicilian executions.

Reviewers in New York were largely critical of Godfather III, complaining that at two hours and 12 minutes it was too long and that it lacked a hard edge and keen focus. Its ending, meant to evoke feelings of tragedy, was greeted with laughter.

But Los Angeles critics applauded robustly as the final credits rolled. Movie exhibitors who saw a separate screening generally expressed satisfaction.

Van Gogh centenary ends with show of his impact on art

AMSTERDAM (R) — The Netherlands is closing a year of festivities marking the centenary of Vincent Van Gogh's death with a major show of his impact on modern art.

The exhibition, at Amsterdam's Vincent Van Gogh Museum, brings together artists as varied as Matisse, Mondrian, Picasso, Klimt and Kandinsky to show how each was influenced by Dutch-born Van Gogh.

"It's always been said that Van Gogh was a founding father of modern art. But an exhibit on this scale that tries to show how has not been mounted before," said Fred Leeman, curator of the exhibition.

The show is entitled "Vincent Van Gogh And Modern Art" and runs until Feb. 17. It includes 50 works by

Van Gogh, chosen because they were seen by artists in exhibitions the decade after his death or were part of private collections that painters had access to.

The works are surrounded by about 120 paintings by major 20th century artists who were inspired, but not overwhelmed, by Van Gogh.

"It would have been very easy to put together a show of artists who were closer in style to Van Gogh — there were so many painters who imitated him," said Leeman.

"But what we wanted were artists of such a stature that they were not swallowed by Van Gogh but rather absorbed his work and transformed it into their own styles."

Sometimes the influence is easy to see, as in a bright green and yellow bedroom

"It would have been very easy to put together a show of artists who were closer in style to Van Gogh — there were so many painters who imitated him. But what we wanted were artists of such a stature that they were not swallowed by Van Gogh but rather absorbed his work and transformed it into their own styles."

view entitled "Bedroom In Airmillerstrasse" by Kandinsky in 1909.

It borrows much in composition, use of colour and heavy brush strokes from Van Gogh's paintings of his

sparse bedroom in a hospital in Arles, France where he spent some of the last months of his life.

But in other paintings — by Braque, Matisse, and Schiele — it is harder to see

where the influence of Van Gogh begins and that of other contemporaries ends.

The exhibition shows how the fauve style of painting in France at the turn of the century owed much of its bright style to Van Gogh's use of unrealistic colours to heighten emotion in his works.

It also includes artists from Germany who were inspired by his total dedication to art as a way of life.

Leeman admits that determining precisely Van Gogh's influence can be complex.

"Talking about influence is always very painful to artists because it threatens what is most important to them — their originality," he said.

Van Gogh sold only one painting during his lifetime but his works have fetched record prices at auctions in

recent years.

His Portrait Of Doctor Gachet became the most expensive picture to be sold at an auction when it fetched \$82.5 million earlier this year. The previous record price was set by his Irises which was purchased for \$53.9 million in 1987.

Van Gogh was supported financially by his brother Theo, an art dealer, and despair at his lack of success was partly why the painter committed suicide in July 1890 at the age of 37.

As the highpoint of the centenary celebration, the Netherlands filled two museums with the largest retrospective ever of his work earlier this year.

The anniversary has also been marked by opera, theatre and film productions about his life and work.

German film studio attempts renewal

By Deborah Seward
The Associated Press

BABELSBERG, Germany — Cameras still roll on the sprawling sets, but Germany's largest film studio hasn't made an internationally acclaimed movie since Marlene Dietrich dazzled the world in the 1920s.

The Nazis drove away talented stars such as Dietrich, and the Communists failed to attract any when they took over the famed UFA Studio outside Berlin after World War II.

With Germany unified, the studio is now being privatised, and its future is uncertain. But studio employees, many of whom have worked there for decades, want to transform DEFA into an independent production centre.

able to secure new audiences.

"We are a studio with great capacity and no orders. That explains our stress," said Andreas Scheinert, DEFA's new marketing director.

The studio owes any renown to its pre-war days, when as the Universal Film Company, or UFA in German, it created movies rivaling those from Hollywood.

German director Fritz Lang filmed metropolis in the principal studio, a cavernous hall so big another director was able to sink a replica of the Titanic for his movie.

Future Hollywood director Josef von Sternberg brought out the best in Dietrich — the husky laugh and the silky legs — in the 1929 classic Blue Angel.

But by 1933, when Hitler came to power, many stars

and major directors had abandoned Germany out of disgust at the Nazis' racial and artistic policies. Joseph Goebbels used the studios to make propaganda movies.

After the war, Babelsberg, a wooded suburb of brick villas and peaceful lakes on the edge of Berlin, became part of East Germany and the studio the property of the Communist state.

Renamed DEFA, the acronym for German Film Company, it produced 680 films since 1946, most of them Communist propaganda. Not one became famous outside East Germany.

Since reunification in October, there have been some changes, although most of the 13 projects in production are old contracts. However, several former

West German television studios and one independent producer have already worked at DEFA.

Scheinert, a screenwriter by training, is working on restructuring concept together with officials from the National privatising Agency, Treuhand, to turn DEFA into a media centre.

"We cannot survive only on feature films alone," he explained. "The decisive factor is to film projects ... that are good enough to enter the European market."

DEFA is trying to develop a structure similar to the Bavarian Film Studio that groups a number of small companies under its wing.

The studio is also eagerly renting out treasures from its store of 150,000 costumes, 500,000 uniforms and 2,000

wigs to bring in cash quickly. It is ideally located to become a major film centre.

Three airports are a short drive away, as is the Kurfuerstendamm, the broad boulevard located in former downtown West Berlin that is lined with big cinemas.

But it will take a lot of money and time for DEFA to match the standards of modern movie making.

"A great deficiency is the obsolete technical standard in the studios," said Philipp Berens, press spokesman for the Bavarian Film Studios in Munich.

Scheinert estimates that 120 million mark (\$83 million) is needed to modernise the studio.

That will also require cost cutting. Benefits to studio employees such as subsidised

meals, a daycare centre and a medical clinic on studio grounds will not survive.

Hundreds of the studio's employees — once numbering around 2,400 — have been fired, including a full symphony orchestra. More pink slips are on the way. By the end of 1991 no more than 800 people will still be employed there.

"We are a little afraid. People are depressed," said Waltraud Stockfisch of the Public Relations Department, who started as a hairdresser at DEFA in 1950 and now gives studio tours.

Other employees are angry. "Nobody wants to go to Duesseldorf or Bavaria. We don't want to leave," said artist Alfred Born, who has space in the main art atelier.

U.S. approves new contraceptive implant

By Deborah Mescie

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — A New contraceptive device, a small, reversible method of birth control, will soon be available to women in the United States.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Norplant, a small, reversible method of birth control, which will be available to women in the United States.

It's going to be interesting to watch what kind of reaction Norplant gets among the public and physicians," said Jeannie Rosoff, president of the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a research and policy group that focuses on reproductive health issues.

"There are going to be some women for whom this is a godsend. The numbers we don't know yet," she said. "But any new addition that is safe is desirable."

Susan Dauley, who underwent a test implant six years ago, told a news conference

in New York, she decided to do it again. "It just took a few minutes," Mrs. Dauley said. "You hardly feel anything."

Family planning experts say Norplant is the first major new contraceptive available to American women in three decades, since the birth control pill was approved in 1960 and a new generation of intrauterine devices, or IUDs, became available around that same time.

Norplant was approved in Finland in 1983 and has been approved in 15 countries since then. Half a million women in those countries have used it, according to the Population Council, which developed the device.

Norplant consists of six thin, flexible capsules, each about an inch and a third long. They are inserted in a fan-like arrangement under the skin of a woman's inner arm above the elbow. The minor surgical procedure is done in 10 to 15 minutes with local anesthesia in a doctor's office or a clinic.

The capsules contain a hormone that is released slowly over five years. The implants

can be removed any time and fertility is quickly restored.

Norplant is 99 per cent effective for women weighing less than 150 pounds. It may be less effective in heavier women, according to the council.

It will be marketed by Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories of Philadelphia and company officials expect the drug to be available commercially in February.

Dr. Marc W. Deitch, medical director at Wyeth-Ayerst, said the company won't discuss the cost of Norplant until it goes on the market, probably in February. But he said it will cost less than five years' worth of birth control pills.

"That's the controlling factor," said Dr. Amy Pollack, associate medical director for the Planned Parenthood Federation.

C. Wayne Bardin, vice president and director of medical research for the Population Council, said last week he had been told the price would be in the range of \$200 to \$300, not including the cost of implanting the

device.

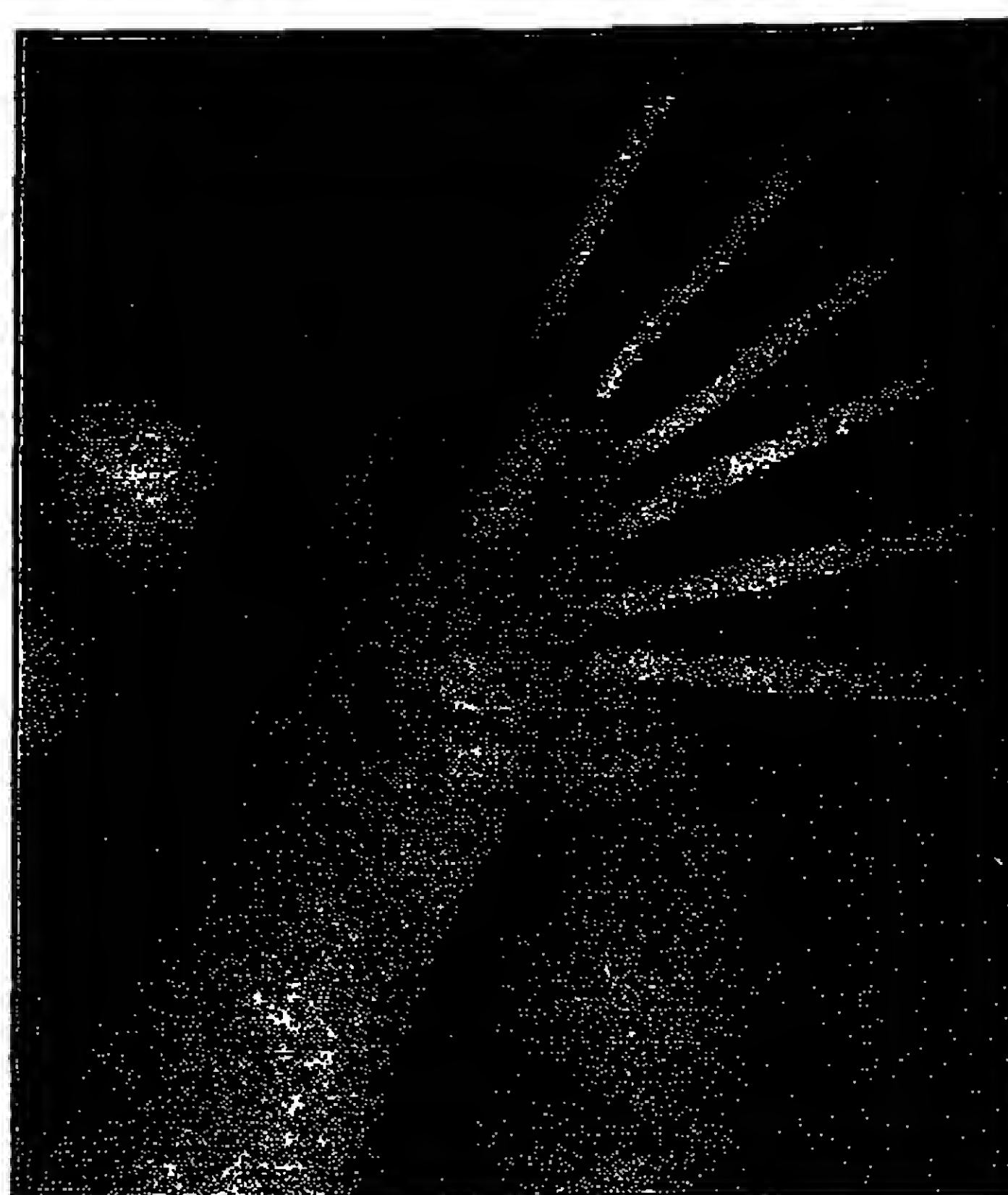
One group for whom Norplant is likely to be popular is women who have had all the children they want but aren't sure they want to be sterilized.

Sterilization is the leading method of birth control for married couples in the United States. In 1989, in nearly 10 per cent of married couples in which the woman was between 15 and 11, sterilization was used, according to the National Centre for Health Statistics.

"Many make that decision (to be sterilized) for lack of another choice," Pollack said.

Some, however, may not like Norplant's side effect. The major one is menstrual irregularities, including prolonged periods and spotting between periods. About 15 per cent of the women who have the implant have it removed because of bleeding, according to the council's studies.

Other side effects include occasional headaches, mood changes, nausea and acne, the FDA said.



The Norplant birth control capsules. The capsules are placed under the skin in the inner arm and become effective within 24 hours when placed during the first seven days of menstrual cycle.

'Gene revolution' will boost food supplies

By Carl Hartman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of the world's leaders in farm research predicts that a "gene revolution" will multiply world food supplies just as the so-called "green revolution" has done since the 1960s.

M.S. Swaminathan, an Indian who formerly headed the International Rice Research Institute at Los Banos in the Philippines, said genetic engineering has yielded new varieties of trout that

gain more weight with less feed and salmon that can survive in colder water.

Within 10 years, he predicted, one of every four fish eaten by people will have come from fish farms. Meanwhile, progress is also being made in grains and other edible plants.

"The plants with new characters now under testing include maize, cotton, soybean, potato, tomato, tobacco, alfalfa, cucumber, cantaloupe, squash, rice, walnut and poplar (trees)," Swaminathan said. "We can expect even more rapid progress in

the nineties...."

Swaminathan predicted that more work will be done on speeding up the growth of fish, determining their sex, and on improving quality, resistance to disease and adaptation to different food and water.

In the Nordic countries and parts of the United States, nearly all trout and salmon on fish farms are already being vaccinated, he said.

He noted that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued nearly 100 permits for testing new genetically-engineered plants in the past

three years.

Swaminathan gave the sixth annual Sir John Crawford Memorial Lecture, founded to honour an Australian agriculturalist who helped found the consultative group on international agricultural research.

The group, which links 13 international farm research centres, held its annual week-long meeting in Washington in October.

Swaminathan said genetic engineering started in university and government laboratories, but its development for practical use has

been done largely by private business.

"This has led to the question whether the fruits of such research will be available only to those who can afford to pay adequately for them," he said.

He suggested that people go hungry today more because they lack money than because there is no food to buy.

"In other words, to win the battle against hunger, we have to fight the 'famine' of jobs," he said.

He credited the green revolution for making India

largely self-sufficient in wheat. When it became independent in 1950, the country was unable to feed its large and rapidly growing population.

But because of research into high-yielding crops, India's wheat production rose from 12 million tonnes in 1964 to 55 million tonnes this year.

The green revolution was touched off by the work of Norman Borlaug, an American who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in Mexico on new high-yield varieties of wheat.

Pollution, industry blamed for sharp climb in cancer rates

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cancer death rates in industrialized nations are rising faster than aging and smoking might account for, heightening suspicion that pollution and other environmental dangers are at fault, scientists say.

Cancer causes about 2.3 million of the 11 million deaths annually in industrialized nations, according to one of an international set of reports collected and published by the New York Academy of Science.

When lung cancer — most often caused by smoking — is excluded, the cancer death rate among men in industrialized nations has risen 9 per cent since 1950, the report said. Cancer death rates for women have risen in some countries and fallen in others, it said.

"Cancer is increasing in industrial countries above and beyond that due to cigarette smoking or aging alone," said Devra Lee Davis, an editor of a collection of studies and a researcher at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington.

"The combination of air pollution and industrial activity is obviously a very important factor."

Brain cancer is among the most rapidly increasing, Davis said, especially among people over 65. In some cases, the rate in the industrial world has increased more than six-fold in those over age 75, she said. Such cancer has also increased among young people, although at a lower rate, she said.

Sharp increases also are occurring in a blood cancer

called multiple myeloma and the dangerous skin cancer called melanoma, Davis said. The rates are climbing in many industrial nations, including the United States.

In Italy, Cesare Maltoni and colleagues at the Bologna Institute of Oncology found that cancer causes nearly 40 per cent of all deaths in the Bologna area, and the rate continues to climb. That's double the rate for the rest of the country. Bologna is in the most industrialized part of Italy.

"The changes are so great over such a short time in so many countries in men and women that we need to look carefully for their causes," Davis said. "These could be very important as clues for prevention."

Although the studies emphasize occupational and environmental exposures, smoking remains one of the greatest causes of cancer, Davis said.

Smoking kills an estimated 3 million people each year around the world, and if current trends continue that will climb to more than 10 million by 2020, Davis said. The combined population of the industrialized countries studied is about 1.2 billion.

Although the increases in cancer are clear, the causes are not, Davis said. Links to benzene, PCBs and other environmental carcinogens are being considered.

Among other possible factors, she said, are: Genetic predisposition to cancer; lifestyle, including drinking and smoking; the consumption of anti-cancer foods like fresh fruits and vegetables; exposure to X-rays and infectious agents, and a variety of occupational hazards.

World's remaining smallpox virus to be destroyed

GENEVA (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union will destroy the world's last live smallpox viruses now that the disease has been eradicated, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced.

Smallpox, a once-dreaded disease that killed millions around the globe, was wiped out in 1977.

The two superpowers, which hold the only remaining stocks of the virus under tight security, decided it was finally time to destroy them.

They concurred in a WHO committee decision that the

stocks should be destroyed by the end of 1993, WHO said in a statement.

The two sides may have been worried about the possible use of the virus in biological warfare, a WHO official said.

They store the viruses frozen in laboratories at the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta and the Research Institute for Viral Preparations in Moscow.

Final destruction will be dependent on scientific work on the virus, the U.N. agency said.

Somalian hospital cook Ali

Maow Maalin, still living, contracted the last naturally occurring case of the potentially fatal disease in October 1977. Another case occurred in 1978 in Britain but that was during a laboratory accident.

Since then the CDC has received collections of virus strains from Britain, Japan and the Netherlands, and the superpowers now hold the only live stocks.

As recently as 1967 smallpox struck 10 million to 15 million people a year and killed two million. Two centuries ago, a tenth of all deaths were caused by

smallpox.

But an all-out campaign launched by WHO in 1967 succeeded in eliminating the disease within a decade.

Scientists were confident that the virus was not still living on in some isolated jungle or desert area because it required an unbroken chain of victims — it had to be passed on to someone else or else it died.

Victims either developed immunity or died, and thus small, isolated communities soon ran out of victims. The result was that the virus itself was wiped out.

Fear of flying — even cabin crews can share it

By Justin Westhoff

TRAVEL and tourist medicine includes advice by the medical profession and tips for patients from which not just executives and summer holidaymakers but much of the population benefit.

An association has been set up to supervise the discipline. A magazine has been launched and, perhaps inevitably, an abbreviation, RTM, short for Reise- und Touristikmedizin, has been coined.

At this year's medical congress, an entire day was devoted to RTM. It may not have been marked by the flair of the great, wide world, but it certainly wasn't boring.

Most holidays nowadays start at the airport, and many people are still afraid of flying. An estimated 30 per cent of Germans share this fear to varying degrees.

Only 10 per cent of air travellers suffer seriously, but 40 per cent at most feel really comfortable in mid-air, said Lufthansa psychologist Reiner Kemmler.

"Cabin crew members," he intriguingly added, "have also been known to suffer from fear

of flying."

But there were methods by which it can successfully be combated, and he didn't mean drinking oneself silly as many cowardly pseudos are disposed to do.

Fear isn't eliminated, merely plastered over, by alcohol. And much the same goes for tranquilisers. Besides, businessmen are unlikely to boost turnover if they arrive at their destination benumbed and under the influence.

In most cases fear of flying is a mixed bag of phobias from everyday life, such as claustrophobia. This realisation is often a first step in the direction of a cure.

Few airline passengers are seriously afraid of flying as such; only a handful suffer from aeroneurosis. Most fears are triggered by specific features of flying, such as climbing, turbulence or the noise of undercarriages being opened.

The commonest symptoms are muscular tension, the shakes, perspiration, palpitations, shortness of breath, stomach trouble and dizziness.

Herr Kemmler says fears that are triggered by technical goings-on can usually be alleviated by explaining what is hap-

pening. That is not the case with fears which are not directly connected with flying. In such cases relaxation training and behavioural therapy may help.

A number of airlines also offer special weekend courses on which passengers can learn exercises that can be repeatedly in conspicuously in the confines of an aircraft seat.

Courses end with a flight on which students are accompanied by a psychologist. Fear is largely eliminated on a long-term basis. Graduates can then fly more often and the effect of their training has a lasting effect on other phobias, he says.

Aviation medicine, an acknowledged part of the medical profession, matters on other counts too.

Which chronically sick patients can be allowed to fly and how is one to handle people injured or fresh out of the operating theatre who need to be flown home?

Patients straight out of surgery need to be checked carefully to make sure they can fly, said Dr. Kay Grossmann of Weissach.

But chronically sick patients suffering from, say, high blood pressure, asthma or diabetes

could as a rule fly, the congress was told. They must merely keep to their treatment and have medicine and other aids at the ready.

Consulting an experienced doctor beforehand also clearly makes sense. Even pregnant women could fly, said Zürich gynaecologist Professor Renate Huch, — provided their pregnancy involved no complications.

Dr. Renate Scheier of Wermelskirchen said vaccination was increasingly neglected in Germany. People felt too sure of themselves and doctors often forgot to mention precautions against tropical diseases such as yellow fever, cholera, typhoid and malaria.

Even basic precautions against tetanus, diphtheria, polio, measles and mumps were disregarded by far too many people, she said.

Travellers to some areas also needed to take precautions against rabies and encephalitis. Effective vaccines existed against both, yet vaccination was neglected.

Polio, which had virtually ceased to occur in Germany, was being reintroduced, Dr. Scheier said. People travelling overseas

Alcohol can damage foetus' brains — doctors

By Melanki Ott

CIGARETTES and drugs have long been known to be a health hazard for the unborn baby, but many mothers-to-be fail to realise that alcohol can be no less toxic for the embryo.

Specialists say about 2,200 babies a year are born in Germany with a physical or mental disability because their mothers were unable to get by without alcohol during pregnancy.

Doctors feel the true number is much higher. In only about one case in 10 is alcohol correctly diagnosed as the cause of a baby's condition.

Parents often keep its condition a secret. It may also, for that matter, not come to the fore until a much later stage in the child's development.

"Alcohol is the most frequent cause of physical deformity and brain damage today," said Hermann Löser

of Munich University children's hospital, launching the latest Aktion Sorgenkind media campaign in Frankfurt am Main.

The campaign is aimed at warning the German public of what the effect of alcohol intake by a pregnant woman may be on the child-to-be in her womb.

Babies affected by their mothers drinking during pregnancy tended, he said, to have deformities of the head, face, heart and connective tissue.

They were usually mentally retarded too, Professor Löser said, painting the full picture of a condition known as alcohol embryopathy.

This, however, was but the tip of the iceberg. Alcohol-related conditions occurred in children in varying degrees. Their effect often did not make its presence felt until later when they were unable to keep up with other

at school. Their ability to learn was limited, their behaviour disturbed. "They are restless, daredevil and unable to assess risks properly," Professor Löser said.

He felt fetuses were mainly threatened by their mother's alcohol intake in their first three months in the womb. Alcohol in the mother's blood passed unfiltered through the placenta into the embryo and affected brain and organ development.

The unborn child was defenceless, its liver was unable to handle alcohol in the blood. Children lacked the substances on which the fully-grown body relied to detoxify the blood.

"The degree of damage depends less on the amount of

alcohol a woman has drunk during pregnancy," he said, than on how much mother and child could take.

"There are mothers who drink to excess but give birth to children who show few if any signs of damage, and others who drink fairly little but give birth to children with clear signs of alcohol-related conditions."

Children of alcoholic mothers are particularly at risk. Their mothers can seldom make do without their alcohol during pregnancy, said Reinhold Geier, chief surgeon at the Sankt-Vitus-Stift, a hospital in Lower Saxony that specialises in treating female addicts.

"Women don't drink for fun, they drink because they have problems," she said.

A normal course of treatment was frequently too much of a burden during pregnancy, however, and many women who made the attempt abandoned it before the end of the course.

"Female addicts need a low-threshold arrangement that enables them to spend their pregnancy in a drug-free environment while not exposing them to the strain of full therapy," Frau Geier said.

She would gladly see an increase in the number of advice centres and outpatient facilities for pregnant women drug addicts. She has drawn up a plan of action and submitted it to the Lower Saxon Ministry of Welfare. A two-page Aktion Sorgenkind leaflet available at many chemists' and doctors' surgeries says women would do best to stop drinking alcohol the moment they decide they would like to have a child.

A drink or two in early pregnancy is no occasion for panic, but social drinking is definitely a threat to the unborn child.

The leaflet offers women alcoholics help and advice. It lists the addresses of special clinics and advice centres.

Telephone hotlines have been specially set up.

Medical organisations have called on the Health Ministry to make a health warning mandatory on bottles containing alcoholic drinks. That would make the risk of even moderate drinking during pregnancy more readily apparent.

Similar to the health warning on cigarette packets, it might say: "Alcohol during pregnancy may harm your child's health." That should make pregnant women, their families, friends and workmates more clearly aware of the problem.

— Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Prince

(Continued from page 1)

Washington about the implementation of the withdrawal, there has to be a subsequent discussion between the Iraqis and the Arabs about solving the Iraq-Kuwait dispute."

Answering another question, he said:

"We have no position on what is basically an Iraqi-Kuwaiti discussion. Our concern is that withdrawal begins, U.N. resolutions are implemented, I noticed with some concern that Mr. Baker was saying that he does not accept partial withdrawals. I do not see really how withdrawals can be effective by Jan. 15. Let us assume that the green light is given as a result of discussion, and those talks begin. Do we then assume that if they are partial by Jan. 15 that the war option would be exercised? I think we have to exhaust the diplomatic option, and I do not see it getting together as certainly given the very strong position on both sides."

"This is what Paragraph three of Resolution 660 calls for, direct negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait, and all parties who are saying full implementation of U.N. resolutions seem to forget that."

Replying to a question on Jordan's economic problems resulting from the Gulf crisis, the Crown Prince said:

"We have received a couple of hundred million dollars of international assistance but that is part of a commitment of over \$1.4 billion. (In case a war starts) we are expecting a million evacuees from the Gulf and God knows what will happen in the occupied territories. It is not a pleasant picture at all."

Budget

(Continued from page 1)

250 million has deprived the treasury of huge funds that could have been used to create jobs and reduce unemployment," Murad said.

Deputy Faris Nabulsi (Democratic Bloc, Amman) who called for the formation of a national unity government, urged the government to stop serving Jordan's JD 8.2 billion foreign debt and asked that the government refrain from further borrowing.

Nabulsi, who said his statement also represented the views of fellow Democrat Fakhri Kassar, called on the government to curb imports and to review its investment policies.

"The flight of national capital is one of the most devastating quakes that hit Third World countries," he said. "And this is because of the impotence of financial and monetary policies that is mostly run by backward bureaucrats."

Nabulsi asserted that real development could only be based on a sound educational system. He said that schools needed new curricula that "would create and deepen one's loyalty to the homeland, and to its defence, that would teach the young to respect others and their right to freedom of expression and that would eradicate backwardness."

Deputy Mohammad Munar (Liberal, North Bodevins) said that the Gulf crisis had revealed the danger in Jordan's dependence on foreign aid.

"Foreign aid is not comforting. It is subject to changing policies that depend on personal whims and temporary interests,"

he said.

Muniar, who voted against the budget, urged the government to find alternative markets for Jordan's products, to reduce imports, to exploit the country's natural resources and to steer higher education towards labour market needs.

After reciting some prayers, independent Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi made a long speech in which he said that Jordan was being besieged by enemies and brothers alike.

He said that Jordanians would go back to eating yoghurt, dates and maza bread rather than sell their dignity and succumb to pressure.

"However, and before doing that," he said, "we should punish the corrupt among us."

Abbadi called on his fellow deputies to support Iraq and the Palestinian intifada.

Abbadi, who went to the podium with a pile of documents and kept referring to them, charged that more banks were facing trouble "due to corruption, embezzlement, and bribes." He also charged that the Telecommunication Corporation was corrupt and waved an envelop that he said contained the evidence.

Abbadi called for the abolition of the Ministry of Tourism, the merger of the Ministry of Culture with the Ministry of Information and the merger of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Deputy Thouqan Hindawi (Independent Sah) read a statement on behalf of himself and fellow Salt Deputy Marwan Hammad.

Hindawi, who together with Hammad voted against the budget, said that contradictions between the figures in the budget and Central Bank figures made very difficult to take the draft budget seriously.

Hindawi gave some example and deduced that "the budget is based on wrong figures and what is so based is wrong."

Hindawi also criticised the handling of the Petra Bank affair and the fact that budgets of all autonomous public institutions were not included in the budget.

"Fifty per cent of public spending in the budget is paralleled by an equal amount spent on other institutions and this obscures the whole picture of public expenditure," he said.

He, like many other deputies, also called for reforms of the public sector's administration.

Deputy Salim Zoubi, a Nationalist from Ramtha, also voted against the budget.

Zoubi said that while "figures in the budget looked fine, but the reality is dark; we cannot accept figures and deny reality."

He disputed the government's assertion that the economy was doing fine until the Gulf crisis erupted in August.

"The truth is the economy was stumbling before the crisis and is now only stumbling more," he said.

He charged that most of the government measures to remedy the economy came in the form of increased taxes that would only burden the poor. He criticised the House Financial Committee's report for being behind people's acceptance of hardships.

"Is the committee telling us that democracy means more taxes?" he asked.

Communist Deputy Issa Mdanat (Democratic Bloc, Karak), blamed past government policies for the country's economic woes. Mdanat called for bolstering

the country's production capacity, a review of foreign debts, curbs on imports and setting priorities for public spending.

Deputy Leith Shubeilat devoted his speech to criticism of law-makers seeking ministerial posts.

"Those who seek to enter the government are many, but they have no programme and their rhetoric is only like sound bombs," he said.

He said that deputies should better formulate a practical programme for opposition that would bolster their presence and would eventually put them in power.

Deputies listened attentively to Shubeilat, who without naming the Parliamentary Unity Coalition (PUC) accused the coalition of being formed for "petty purposes."

"Had the coalition had something more on its priority list than cabinet seats, then that majority would have forced major changes in our democratic march," he said.

He charged that a great deal of political reform was inevitable and that Parliament at this stage should lay the ground for a sound democratic system.

"I can't see why the haste towards power before enacting constitutional amendments to protect parliament from being dissolved... and before enacting a new electoral law," he said.

"I can't see how can we enter the government before the government exercises full powers over the centres of power in the defence and security 'establishments'," he said.

"I believe that if the Islamic movement devised a plan to amend the state laws one by one, it would be more effective for change than deputies entering the government," he concluded.

After deputies finalised their debate, Minister of Finance Jardaheh replied. Jardaheh reiterated that had it not been for the Gulf crisis the budget deficit for 1991 would have only been JD 50 million instead of JD 187 million.

He said that it was only natural that Jordan would continue external borrowing. He said that donor countries insisted on easy, long-term loans.

On Petra Bank, the minister said the government had to spend JD 250 million in the process of liquidation in order to protect the banking sector and its role in national development.

He conceded however that the banking sector needed reforms and promised to modernise related legislation.

He said that food subsidies in 1990 reached JD 92.5 million up from an estimated JD 60 million.

On autonomous institutions, the minister agreed with the deputies that their budgets should be included in the general budget, but said the laws that created those institutions stipulated separate budgets.

Jardaheh said the government had had extensive contacts with the U.N. and foreign countries in order to obtain compensation for the losses Jordan incurred as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Prime Minister Badran was the last speaker in Wednesday session in the second day of the debate over the budget.

U.N. vote

(Continued from page 1)

Two key disputes remain, Turnold explained. One is the wording of the international peace conference, which Israel rejects and the United States wants to see as vague as possible,

as well as a reference to negotiations between Israel and the Arabs in the main text.

The second is U.S. wording that carefully avoids establishing any link between the Gulf crisis and the Middle East.

Diplomats said Yemen, which holds the council presidency, had problems with the linkage issue while Colombia, Cuba and Malaysia were using it more as a bargaining point.

All members, however, agree to "deplore" Israel's decision to resume expulsion of Palestinians from occupied territories.

Mitterrand

(Continued from page 1)

necessarily in the same way, but in the same spirit."

"We must put an end to this tension that overrides all events in the Near and Middle East," he said.

Mitterrand said the demands of the Security Council did not refer to an Iraqi pullout from "a quarter, a third, or two-thirds of Kuwait" but from all of the emirate.

Mitterrand said he hoped efforts to arrange a dialogue with Iraq would succeed before the Jan. 15 deadline.

"But the chances are fragile, very fragile," he added.

"If we can't agree on a meeting to talk about a possible reduction of tensions... between Iraqis and Americans, then Iraqi intentions are truly so intransigent that they risk provoking the irreparable," Mitterrand said.

Gulf force

(Continued from page 1)

Waller's comments raised eyebrows among deputies to Schwarzkopf and Powell, who said they were concerned that Waller had been too candid.

Asked about Waller's remarks, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said, "What he really said is they might not be as ready as they would like to be... for all the contingencies..."

"But we are assured they will be ready to do whatever they are called upon to do," Fitzwater said in Washington.

Cheney and Powell have more strategy sessions Thursday and Friday morning before spending the rest of Friday and Saturday on pre-Christmas visits with U.S. troops.

Charter

(Continued from page 1)

the freedom to form political parties.

Obeidat stressed that the charter does in no way supersede the Constitution and that "constitutional governments following the democratic course need no more than a clarification of these objectives that are based on the Constitution and support the democratic transition."

Another major point of contention during the commission's debates was the role of Islamic Sharia in the document, according to commission members. There were disagreements on the wording on the role of Sharia and the relation to the country's legislation, said one member.

In the charter Islamic Sharia is identified as "the major source of legislation" for the country, he said. More liberal members were pushing for a less absolute wording such as "a source of legislation."

Obeidat said that during the debates, the Muslim Brotherhood called for more advance-

ment "towards Islamic society."

"In our civil application of legislation, this is already taking place wherever possible," he said. "There are many different interpretations in Islam which provide for sufficient flexibility in dealing with different issues."

Obeidat said the Brotherhood did not call for setting up an Islamic state, rather "they recognise that Jordan is already a Muslim state — a parliamentary monarchy with Islam as its religion. They all started from this concept which is in line with the Constitution and the wishes of the people."

Another key issue dealt with in the charter is the question of the national identity of the Jordanian people. This assumes added significance when seen in light of conflicting assertions as to who constitutes a Jordanian, or whether the mere possession of a Jordanian passport makes a Jordanian citizen.

Obeidat said the charter dealt with the issue of Jordanians whose origins are from the occupied territories no different from that of Jordanians from the East Bank.

Indeed, he said, the Palestinian "identity is an identity of a struggle with political dimensions, but this does not contradict the Jordanian Arab identity."

In fact, he said, the Jordanian identity is a "safeguard for Jordan against the alternative (Palestinian) homeland" theory propagated by Israeli leaders.

The Jordanian identity, the former prime minister said, projects a single "Arab entry in the joint struggle and total rejection of the idea of an alternative homeland."

"There cannot be separate Palestinian and Jordanian institutions in Jordan," he said. "There is no distinction among Jordanians (regardless of their origin) in their rights and obligations regardless of race and religion," he added.

"There are no two peoples in Jordan. There is only one people and national unity is the base for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in the present and future," he said. He also pointed out that Jordan had made its position very clear on the status of the residents of the occupied territories when it announced its disengagement from the West Bank in July 1988.

Jordan now issues two-year passports for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories to facilitate their employment and education outside Jordan and occupied territories.

"There is no doubt that the reality of the Israeli occupation, the decision to disengage legally and administratively from the West Bank and the proclamation of the Palestinian state... and Jordan's recognition of the state has become the basis for future relationship between Jordan and Palestine," Obeidat said.

The long-term future of this relationship, he explained, also depends on resolving the Palestinian problem and when the Palestinian people would be able to establish their state. "If there was a liberation or withdrawal from any part of the occupied Palestinian territory and a Palestinian state or entity is established, then this relationship will have to be

organised in accordance with the will of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples," Obeidat said.

"In the charter we consider the unity of the two peoples as an example for Arab unity and a means for the continuation of the unity relationship between Jordan and Palestine," he said. "But we respect the choice of peoples on the form of this relationship."

Badran

(Continued from page 1)

responded favourably.

Badran echoed the deputies' concerns about the rise in unemployment, but said, however, that the government favoured that the unemployed be accommodated by the private sector instead of the public sector.

Badran noted there were many employment opportunities in different sectors but that the unemployed were reluctant to fill them.

The prime minister said the government had amended investment laws to encourage more investment in industry that would create new jobs.

On agriculture the prime minister said that the government had increased allocations for the Ministry of Agriculture from JD 8.329 million to JD 9.809 million.

As for farmers' indebtedness, Badran said, the government had prepared a report on all agricultural credit funds that would be submitted for debate in Parliament soon.

The prime minister also reviewed the works of all ministries and their plans for 1991.

In answer to frequent calls by the deputies to reform the government apparatus, Badran said the government had started as of mid-1990 an administrative reform plan that would be ready by the end of 1993.

Without naming Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, who in many sessions had charged many

institutions were corrupt, Badran said: "I keep seeing documents waved and allegations made. If any one has any charge or document let him go to the prosecutor general and file a case."

Poverty

(Continued from page 1)

previous 24 hours, Fisher said in recounting another instance.

"The picture is indeed very bleak. What the Gulf crisis has done to Jordan is to make it instantly a less developed country from a middle-income country" prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Reid said.

Both Reid and Fisher said while the Gulf crisis on its own could not be blamed for the overall situation, the economic impact of the conflict had aggravated the problems accumulated over the past three years.

"Here we have a situation where the gross national product of the country has been cut by 40 per cent even without a war in the Gulf," Reid said posing a question on what the situation would be like if a military conflict were to break out in the region.

The UNICEF officials paid tribute to Jordan's particular emphasis on maintaining its health and education programmes for its people despite grave budgetary problems.

Jordan, which has acquired an excellent reputation in its health services as evident in the relatively low infant mortality rate of 35 per 1,000 live births, stands in need of urgent international assistance to address the poverty problem, Reid said.

"Doctors are now reporting cases of dysentery, something unheard of in Jordan," Reid told the press conference.

"They are also reporting visible malnutrition, also unheard of in the Kingdom,"

he said.

According to international experts, the brain cells of children are developed during the first two years under proper nutrition, Reid noted, emphasising the long-term impact on the country's intellectual wealth.

Fisher said: "People who come to Amman see the villas here but do not know of the actual situation" in the remote regions and some "hidden neighbourhoods" of the capital itself. The accurate picture of the conditions of the living under poverty line has never been exposed before and the "drama of the Gulf crisis" has propelled the facts into light, he added.

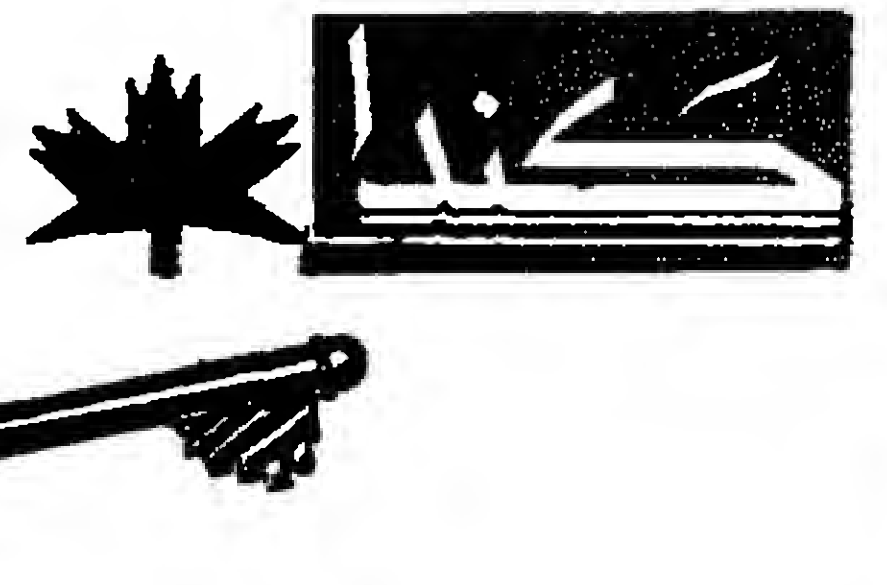
The UNICEF officials could not attach any specific figure to the assistance the Kingdom needed. Reid said "correctly-placed aid and programmes" could go a long way in alleviating the suffering.

The survey is expected to be complete in two months' time, and its findings would be processed to figure out specific programmes and projects to address the problem, Fisher said.

Reid said he had formally presented a copy of the State of the World's Children to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan earlier Wednesday and discussed with him the problems of Jordan in relation to health and education services. "His Highness replied with an unqualified yes when asked whether Jordan would be able to maintain the present level of health and education services," he said.

At the same time, Reid and Fisher also warned that the entire situation could get out of hand in the event of war erupting in the Gulf. "Hopefully, common sense and realisation of the massive destruction and devastation that a (conflagration) would cause would avert a war," Reid said.

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Tyson- Ruddock fight raises eyebrows

NEW YORK (Agencies) — There was a raising of eyebrows and some head shaking, too, among the boxing fraternity when Mike Tyson signed to fight Donovan "Razor" Ruddock.

"I think it's a big risk Tyson is taking," said Evander Holyfield, the undisputed heavyweight champion, who was in New York Tuesday on another matter.

Ruddock, big, strong and with knockout power in either hand, is ranked second only to Tyson by the World Boxing Council (WBC), World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF).

"Both these guys are risking a lot by fighting each other," promoter Don King said during a news conference to announce the 12-round match on March 18 outdoors at the Mirage Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas.

Tyson is in line to fight the winner of Holyfield's title defense against George Foreman on April 19 at the Atlantic City Convention Centre.

One person who isn't worried about Tyson blowing his mandatory title challenge by fighting is Tyson.

"Basically, he's a good fighter," the former heavyweight champion said, "but I'm extremely confident about the fight."

"The fight is not going to be as hard as everybody thinks it is," Why? The former champion was asked.

"Because it isn't," Tyson said. While King talks of risks, Muhammad, Ruddock's promoter, who will co-promote the match, said Ruddock had no choice.

"It's evident that neither Holyfield nor George Foreman will fight Razor Ruddock in the next two years," Muhammad said. "We're going to force them."

A victory over Tyson would put Ruddock into the position of being the mandatory challenger. Should he not fight Tyson, it would be sometime in 1992 before he would become mandatory challenger.

Ruddock, a Jamaican who lives in Toronto, was at the U.S. consulate there Tuesday applying for a U.S. residence visa, according to Muhammad.

There's a chance the fight could be for WBC title recognition, but the match will be held regardless, according to King. The WBC has ruled that Holyfield should be stripped of championship recognition for failing to fight Tyson in the first defence of the title he won from James "Buster" Douglas on Oct. 25.

The issue is in litigation and appears headed for arbitration. Holyfield's fight against Foreman is being sanctioned as a title match by the IBF and WBA.

There are people who don't want a Tyson-Ruddock fight to happen under any circumstances, according to Muhammad. He said Shelly Finkel, a Holyfield advisor, had called him three times and offered him \$2 million not to go through with the fight.

"That's not true," Finkel said. "I talked to him once in person and once on the phone yesterday morning. I didn't think the fight was going to happen and if it wasn't going to, I'd be interested in talking to him."

Finkel said he would have been interested in having Ruddock fight on the Holyfield

Foreman card at the Atlantic City Convention Centre.

Neither King nor Muhammad would disclose the purses for Tyson and Ruddock.

Holyfield — threatened with being stripped of one of his titles — and four U.S. congressmen Tuesday called for a federal investigation of boxing.

Congressmen Thomas Downey, Jose Serrano, Edolphus Towns and Jim Moran said they supported congressional hearings to study legislation aimed at regulating boxing which might lead to establishing a National Boxing Commissioner.

Holyfield's promoter, Dan Duva, said the move for an investigation stemmed from the World Boxing Council's (WBC) threat to strip Holyfield of his title if he went ahead with his fight against George Foreman in April instead of first fighting former champion Mike Tyson.

Duva has obtained a court injunction preventing the WBC from stripping Holyfield — also recognised as the champion by the World Boxing Association and the International Boxing Federation — until the matter is resolved in binding arbitration.

"The WBC wants to strip me of my title," Holyfield said, "but what I won in the ring I should lose in the ring. This issue is bigger than me... I'm really fighting for all the young boxers around the country trying to make their way to the top."

"The only person who gets ripped off is the fighter," Congressman Serrano, who represents an impoverished area of New York City, said that boxers "need uniform rational protection of both their health and their pocketbooks."



Mike Tyson (left) delivers a hard punch to the face of Alex Stewart knocking him down in the first round of his last fight in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Egypt to spend \$130m on African games

NAIROBI (R) — Egypt will spend just over 130 million hosting next year's fifth All African Games, it was announced Wednesday.

The games, involving 17 sports, will be held from Sept. 20 to Oct. 1 in Egypt's three main cities — Cairo, Alexandria, and Ismailia. Egypt's ambassador to Kenya Marawan Badr told a news conference.

"The games will cost the Egyptian government \$130.5 million... as of now we cannot talk of possible profits," he told

journalists.

When Kenya hosted the fourth All African Games in 1987 — the first time they had been held for nine years — they were a financial disaster losing the East African country approximately \$200 million.

A special report into the disaster blamed government officials for the mess.

Egyptian officials will confer with Kenyan Sports Minister James Njiru next week on suggestions for improving the games.

Media rights for next year's games have already been sold to Cairo's leading newspaper group, Al Ahram, for only \$2.2 million.

Badr said his country hoped all Africa would be represented at the games despite varied problems they faced.

"We are aware of the financial problems confronting African countries but we hope they will overcome them so that we can maintain the tradition of holding the games at regular intervals," Badr said.

Iraq blasts FIFA

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has condemned FIFA, soccer's world governing body, upholding an Asian Football Confederation decision to suspend all their games during the Gulf crisis.

A statement by the Iraqi Football Federation in Baghdad Newspapers Wednesday described the decision by FIFA as "haphazard and in violation of FIFA's laws and regulations."

The newspapers said the statement was issued at the end of a meeting held Tuesday by the Iraqi Soccer Federation, headed by Uday Saddam Hussein, son of the Iraqi president.

The meeting also decided to admit into Iraq's first division a club side from Kuwait, which was invaded by Iraq on Aug. 2 and later annexed as its 19th province.

It named the side as Al-Kuwait and said it would play all the fixtures it had missed since the season began in October.

The federation also decided to take all Kuwaiti soccer clubs under its jurisdiction and allow footballers to move from them to Iraqi sides if they wished.

Iraq is under notice from the United States to leave Kuwait by Jan. 15.

Lendl named world champion

LONDON (R) — Ivan Lendl was named 1990 world champion by the International Tennis Federation Tuesday.

The unanimous decision was made by the ITF's World Champion's Panel — Briton Fred Perry, Frank Sedgman of Australia and American Tony Trabert, all Wimbledon winners.

Sweden's Stefan Edberg, mainly because of more consistent form in the four Grand Slam tournaments.

The Czechoslovak won 16 matches and was the Australian Open champion. Edberg was successful in 13 matches and although he won Wimbledon, he was beaten in the first round of the French and U.S. Opens.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 21, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Despite the poor aspects things can work out well today if you concentrate upon spiritual values and renewing your mind in right ways of thinking. Sidestep the urge to argue.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to get out and make as many new contacts as possible and to show you are interested in new schools of thought.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you have in mind that means seeing things of a duty nature in a broader and more comprehensive light is excellent for you right now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your associates are willing to listen to what you have to say and you would be wise to be equally attentive to the comments they have to make.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out now to enthusiastically get busy at the projects you have to do and forego that urge to go off on some voyage.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look to those of whom you are most congenial or who have a similar sense of humour to your own and be with them at the entertainments of your joint choice.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is your moment to find out just what you should do to get the

best will and approval of your family in projects that concern them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now find that there are some highly efficient inventions that you can add to your routines so they are done much better and with more ease.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your finances are of paramount importance now so be sure to let those able to help you know what it is best to do in order to build up assets.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you are in a productive frame of mind and you would be wise to let those about you see that you want their alliance in your interest.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) This is the moment for you to make sure you have it in your power to let those see that you are able to treat their confidence secretly.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An honest and blunt friend is likely to tell you just how he feels about some situation that has been confusing to you at this time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You go straight to that person of affection who is able to help you make your dreams come true where accomplishments are concerned.

Money compels drug use — Johnson's coach

NEW YORK (AP) — Ben Johnson's former coach says track and field athletes face a dilemma. They can take performance-enhancing drugs and have a better chance of winning, or not take them and most likely lose.

"If you don't take it, you make it. Break the rules or lose," Charlie Francis wrote in his candid new book, *Speed Trap: A Track Coach's Account of How the World's Greatest Athletes Win — With Drugs*, written with investigative reporter Jeff Coplan.

"In an ideal world, of course, people would not feel so impelled to seek an edge — pharmaceutical or otherwise — over their competition. Athletes would pursue excellence for its own sake. In such a world there would be little demand for performance-enhancing drugs."

"But as long as sport remains a big business, as long as the Olympics are driven by the dollar first and last, as long as hundreds of seconds translate

into millions of dollars and blinding celebrity, athletes will do whatever they can to win."

That's why Francis had Johnson on drugs for seven years, before the sprinter was caught during the 1988 Olympics. It was the need and the greed to win.

But Francis is still puzzled how Johnson, the first-place finisher in the Olympic 100-metre dash, tested positive for drugs.

"It's still a mystery how he could have tested positive on the basis of the administration of our (drug) programme," Francis said Tuesday while in New York to promote the book.

Johnson's crowning glory came on Sep. 22, 1988, at Seoul, when he won the Olympic 100-metre dash in 9.79 seconds, the fastest now-wind aided clocking ever. Two days later, the IOC announced that Johnson tested positive for the anabolic steroid Stanozolol.

His world record was negated, his gold medal was stripped and

his image severely tarnished. He was banned from the Olympics and barred from competition for two years.

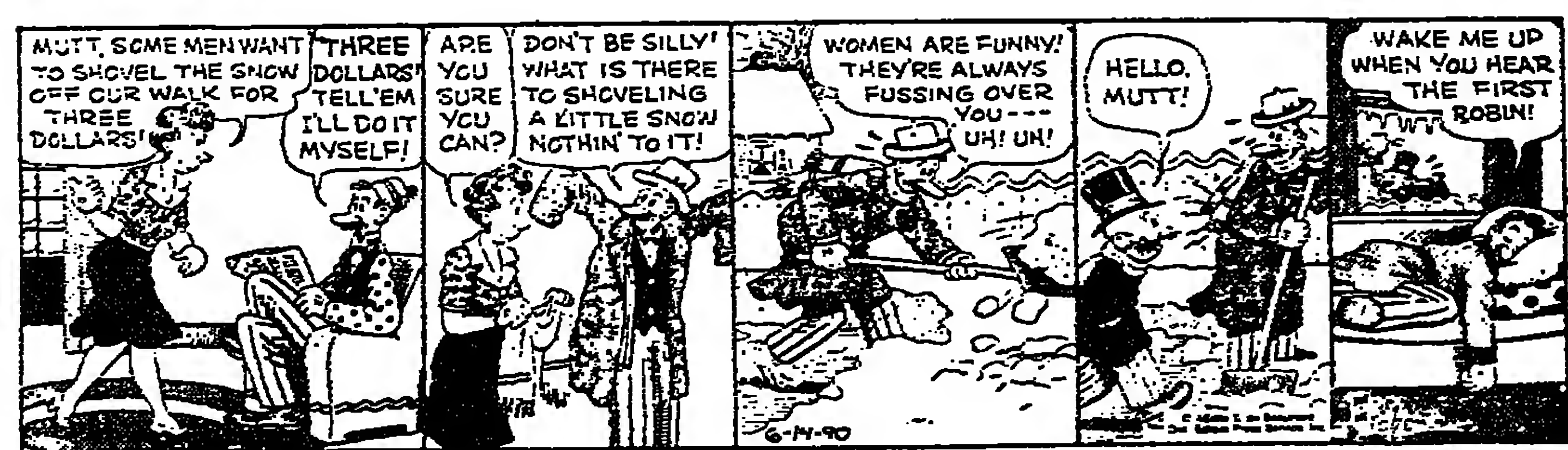
"The penalty against Ben was the penalty at the time," Francis said, when asked if the punishment fit the crime. "Other athletes have tested positive, but they haven't met with the same vilification, because he's the most famous athlete in the world."

But Francis added, "He tested positive. Athletes know the clearance time (for removing drugs from their system)."

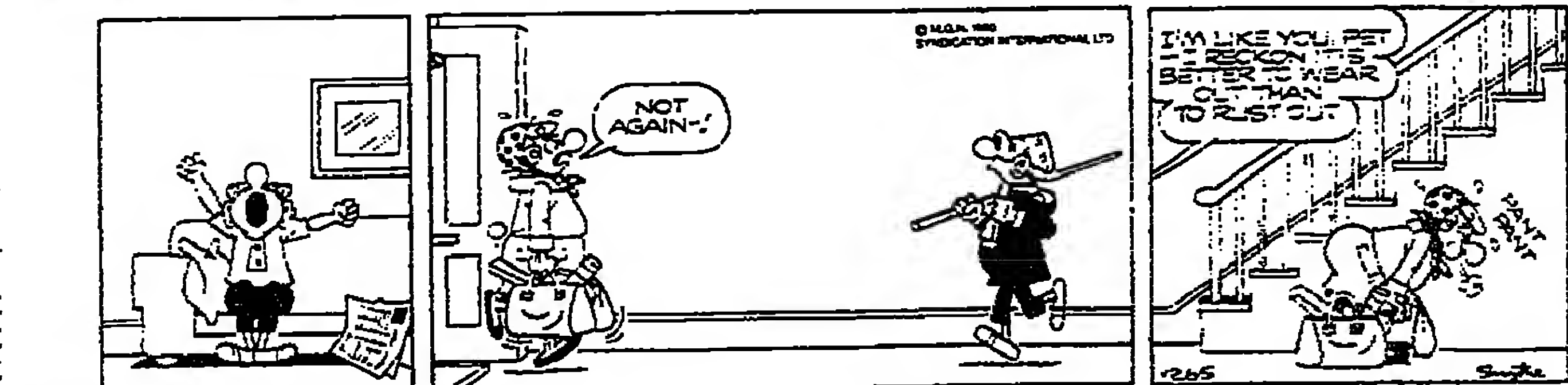
That's why he still can't understand how Johnson did not pass the test.

"There were positives at almost every major meet, but I'd never allowed myself to imagine that one of my athletes would be snared, least of all Ben," Francis wrote. "The track federations had staged drug tests for 20 years, and in all that time no major star had failed one — not officially, at any rate."

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 20, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day for seeing interesting older persons and getting communications in order so that all your plans can proceed quickly when the right time comes, which isn't now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A time to get all of those responsibilities attended to whether they are of a governmental, a business or a personal nature and with conciseness.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your time to come to a whole new agreement and arrangement with those partners with whom you want to get along in the future and to eliminate tension.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find that almost everyone about you has some plans how you can do your project better and perform whatever tasks are ahead of you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A time to start the day right by not only doing the business facing you well but also to get special hobbies organised better.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is that moment when you have it in your power to get in conversations with your own clan to eliminate whatever friction has built up with you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make a point now to get at

those appointments and discussions that can get you in better health and arrange your routines better in the future.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have some interesting means by which to add to your income and revenue now so don't put off by lopping off those expenses and start new.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can do pretty much what you like especially whatever is of a personal nature so be sure that you do early make plans to gain your desires.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think out what is best for you and then make quiet preparations to get such with the aid of experts who give you data in confidence.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) This is the moment to make sure you do value the good will of that official or executive who is in a position to render you a big favour.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a day to start out right by getting some new suggestions for your advancement and progress so be openminded to what others say.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Yes, I can speak a foreign language. Woof-woof-woof-woof!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MULAB

VAGRE

LARUT

GLAARN



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "OO-OOOOO-OOOO"

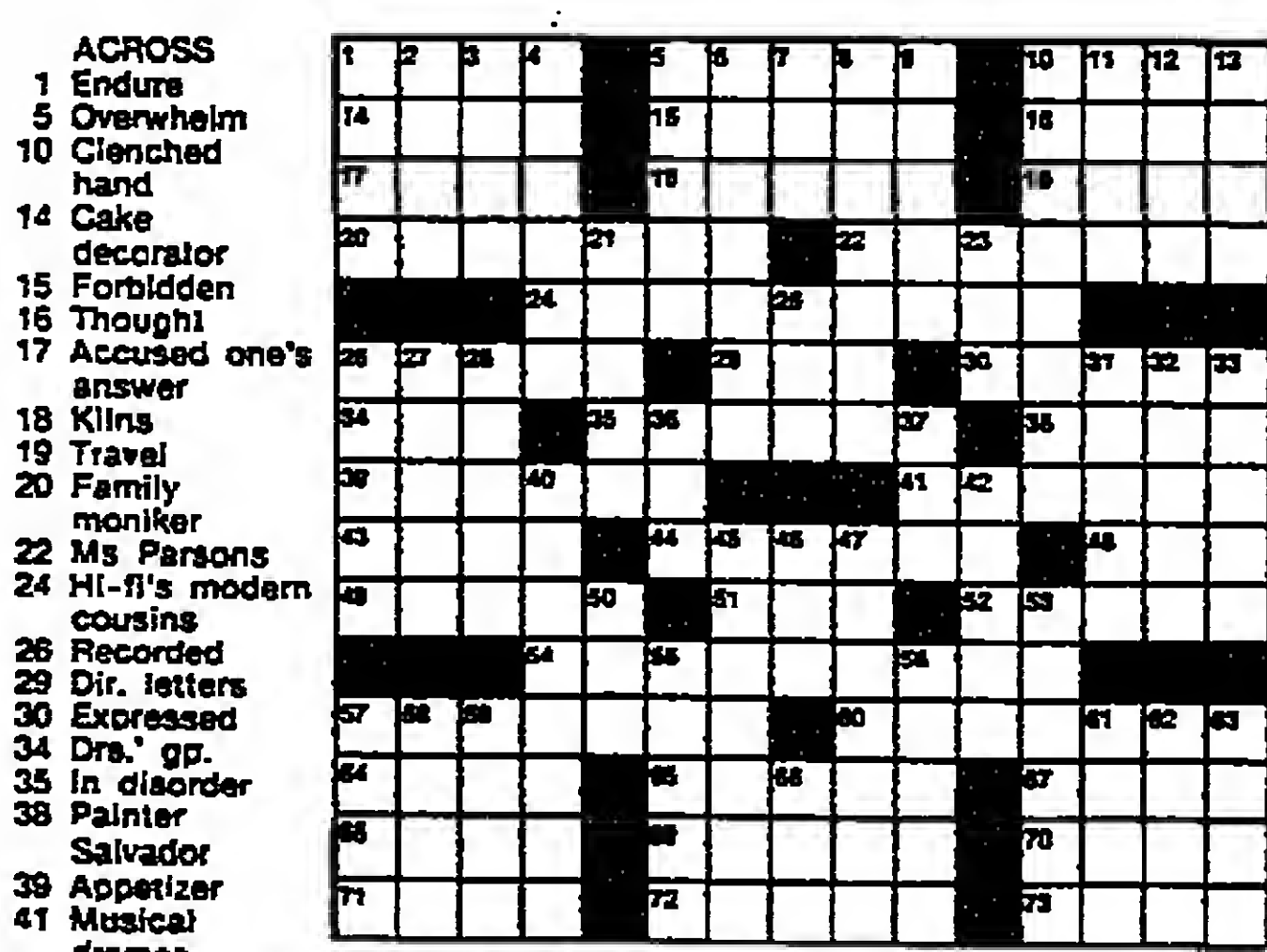
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: PROVE METAL FETISH SHANTY

Answer: What they call that guy who always remains at a party after the food and drink are all gone—THE HOST

THE Daily Crossword

by James Barrick



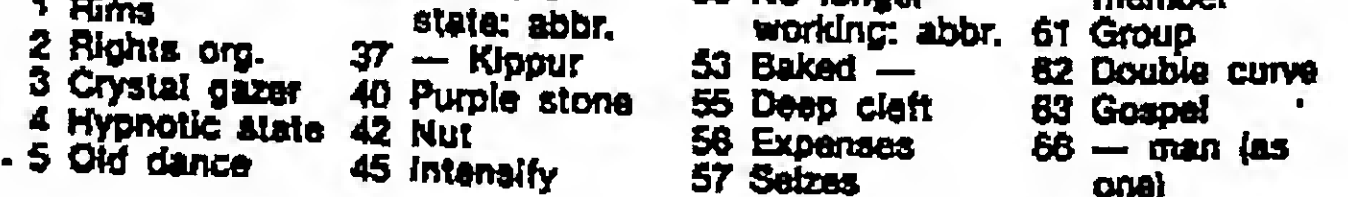
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



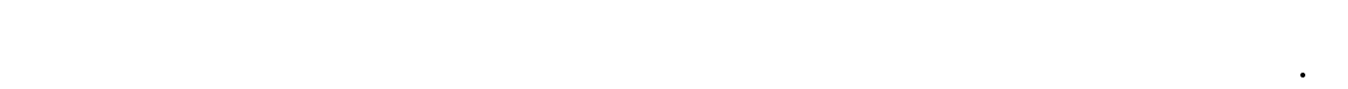
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Ryzhkov says economy sinking further

MOSCOW (R) — Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said Wednesday the Soviet economy is in unprecedented decline and Western creditors are being scared off by political instability.

"Not only were we unable to pull ourselves out of a situation on the brink of a crisis, on the contrary, we are now up against an unprecedented decline in production," he told a session of the full Soviet parliament.

Ryzhkov said national income, the main indicator of Soviet output and economic performance, fell three per cent in 1990.

Official figures released last week showed industrial output fell 0.9 per cent in the first 11 months of the year and by 1.8 per cent in November.

Ryzhkov said productivity was

down two per cent on 1989 levels and money supply for the year stood at between 22 and 24 billion roubles (\$38 billion at the official rate) — compared to the planned figure of 10 billion.

The figures reflect the plight of Soviet industry struggling to meet commitments in key areas, particularly energy.

It is also reflected in the huge difficulties faced by consumers trying to buy food and other basic household goods.

The parliament has approved plans to end decades of central planning and move towards a market economy.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other multilateral aid agencies are expected to encourage rapid reform in a report on the Soviet economy due to be published Friday.

Many economists blame the slump in production on the dismantling of traditional centralised links and the absence of new economic structures to replace them.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, who last week issued a decree banning enterprises from establishing direct trade links with either Soviet or foreign firms, painted a grim picture of economic chaos to parliament this week.

In his remarks to deputies, Ryzhkov said Soviet debt service requirements for the year had climbed to nine billion roubles (\$11.5 billion).

Moscow has had trouble paying for imports this year due to hard currency shortages and reforms that allowed thousands of firms to conduct foreign trade

on their own for the first time.

But Ryzhkov said the main reason for Western reticence in extending credit "is not so much the increase in indebtedness, but rather our state and political instability."

He said 1991 exports were expected to fall 12 per cent and demand for foreign currency was rising to pay for food imports.

These imports are expected to include 30 million tonnes of grain, 1.5 million tonnes of meat and more than 12 million tonnes of dairy products.

Some countries, including the United States, France, Spain and Italy, have offered government-backed loans to Moscow to help finance purchases of food and other goods in short supply.

World Bank says Gulf buildup threatens to revive debt crisis

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The World Bank said Tuesday the Gulf crisis and resulting oil price increases were overpowering the progress developing countries had made in the past two years in dealing with problems of debt.

In releasing its annual debt figures, the bank said that by the end of 1990 the external debt of developing countries is projected to reach \$1.34 trillion, an increase of six per cent in 12 months.

"The debt crisis of developing nations is somewhat less severe than two years ago, but the situation in the Gulf threatens to stall progress in some countries," the bank said.

It said developing countries, lacking access to new loans from outside to help cushion the blow of higher oil prices, were going to have to tighten their belts and make the kind of economic reforms that allow them to live within their means.

"Domestic reform and macroeconomic adjustment have always been essential to development and resolution of the debt crisis," the report said.

The increase in debt being added by developing countries reflects some growth in net lending flows — meaning that new funds exceed the amount being repaid.

The figures, however, reflect a sharp decline in the value of the dollar, which distorts them.

making the increase larger than it otherwise might be since debt is calculated in dollar terms, the bank said.

The increase reflects new lending by Japan to support U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's debt initiative and the special lending programme the bank has for Africa.

Lastly, the increase in net flows reflects the fact that some countries have stopped repaying their loans, adding to the buildup of the debt load.

The bank said net new lending this year to help developing countries is mainly coming from other countries rather than from commercial banks which have cut back substantially in recent years and are continuing to stay away although there will be a small increase this year.

The bank noted that higher oil prices are helping 11 of the world's most indebted Third World countries.

Mexico, the second-largest debtor among developing nations, stands to benefit the most from windfall oil profits. Other beneficiary debtors include Venezuela, Egypt, Nigeria, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Ecuador, it said.

In its annual "World Debt Tables" for 1990-91, the bank said the Third World's total debt rose to \$1.34 trillion last year, up \$80 billion from 1989.

It reported that 107 debtor countries, not including the Soviet Union, will pay \$110.5

billion in principal and interest this year, up from last year's \$135.7 billion.

The bank, owned by 154 governments, is the biggest source of international aid, lending about \$21 billion a year. Most Third World foreign debt is owed directly to governments and to private banks of richer countries such as the United States, Germany and Japan.

"For some of these countries the gains from a higher oil price can be seen as some very necessary relief... in the situation they've already been facing," said D. C. Rao, an Indian who directs the bank's international economics department.

In its best-case scenario, the bank projected the price of oil will average \$25 a barrel this year and \$29 in 1991, dropping to \$25 again in 1992.

Within that scenario, the bank said the 11 indebted oil producers would earn an extra \$79 billion over the three year period. Another 96 debtor countries will have to spend an additional \$62.2 billion on imports of oil during that time.

The biggest Third World debtor to benefit would be Mexico, which owes \$95.6 billion abroad. Only Brazil, with \$11.3 billion in foreign debts, owes more.

The bank did not estimate how much Mexico, might gain from higher prices for oil, its biggest export. But Stuart Tucker of the Overseas Development Council, a private business research group, estimated it could

be \$10.2 to \$29.1 billion a year. The bank said Brazil, which has little oil of its own, could pay another \$7 billion or more by the end of 1992.

Others gaining from higher oil prices would be Egypt, with a foreign debt of \$18.6 billion, Venezuela, which owes \$33.1 billion abroad and Nigeria, with a \$32.6 billion foreign debt. China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Algeria, Ecuador, Bolivia and Congo are other debtors aided by the Gulf crisis.

The bank said Jordan could lose 30 per cent of its national income because of the crisis, as sanctions against Iraq cut its trade and remittances from expatriate workers disappear.

Saudi Arabia, the Soviet Union, Iran and the Gulf states, which stand to profit most from high oil prices, are not heavily indebted.

M. A. Adelman, a retired professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has said that Saudi Arabia alone should earn an additional \$50 billion a year at current oil prices.

Some estimates have put the potential Soviet gain as high as \$30 billion.

In September, Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, the bank's sister organisation, suggested that countries profiting from the crisis might help those hurt by it. Officials say he is still working on the idea.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, December 19, 1990 Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	660.0	664.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	495.2	498.2
Pound Sterling	1282.3	1290.0	Dutch guilder	396.8	399.2
Deutschemark	447.5	445.2	Swedish crown	118.4	119.1
Swiss franc	522.4	525.5	Italian lire (for 100)	59.0	59.4
French franc	131.2	132.0	Belgian franc (for 10)	214.5	215.8

U.S. central bank cuts discount rate to fight recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve (Fed) cut a key lending rate by one-half percentage point Tuesday, sending its strongest signal to date that it intends to battle the growing weakness in the American economy with easier credit.

The Fed announced that it was lowering its discount rate, the interest it charges to make loans to banks, from seven per cent to 6.5 per cent.

It was the first reduction in this interest rate in more than four years. Analysts predicted the cut would prompt a reduction in a variety of business and consumer loan rates, including banks' benchmark prime lending rate.

The announcement came hours after the release of two government reports showing that consumer prices rose a moderate 0.3 per cent in November and that America's trade deficit soared in October to \$11.6 billion, its highest level in 2½ years.

Analysts said the good news on inflation gave the Fed room to lower interest rates while the trade report showed the urgent need to do so by raising the possibility that the new recession could be more severe than previously expected.

For the last two months, the Fed had been making more modest moves at easing credit conditions by engineering reductions in the federal funds rate, the interest banks charge each other, from eight per cent to the current 7.25 per cent.

A reduction in the discount rate is the most dramatic signal the Fed can send of its intention to fight economic weakness with lower interest rates.

The Bush administration, concerned by the signs of widespread economic weakness, had been pushing for some time for a more assertive credit-easing campaign on the part of the Fed.

At the White House, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater hailed the Fed decision as welcome news.

"It should be helpful in promoting growth in the economy in the months ahead," Fitzwater said. "This move appears just-

fied by the budget agreement and the general slowdown."

Until Tuesday the Fed had resisted administration entreaties for an aggressive easing out of fear that financial markets would be panicked into believing the central bank was abandoning its fight to restrain inflation at a time when the Gulf crisis had sent energy prices soaring.

However, economists said that the December report on consumer prices, which showed them rising at a moderate annual rate of 3.7 per cent, had given the central bank confidence that the initial oil shock following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was beginning to abate.

In addition, the steep widening of the trade deficit raised concerns that the already bleak prospects for the economy in the fourth quarter would be even worse by removing one of the few remaining sources of strength.

Bruce Steinberg, an economist at Merrill Lynch financial firm, said the Fed was pursuing the right course.

"It needs to be worrying about the economy going down more than it needs to be worrying about inflation," he said.

In a statement, the central bank said it had taken the action "against the background of weakness in the economy, constraints on credit and slow growth" of the nation's money supply.

Economists said they had no doubt that the Fed policymakers are convinced the country has entered its first recession since the 1980-82 downturn although Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has stopped short of using that term, instead calling the current weakness "a meaningful downturn."

The discount rate cut comes after a string of economic indicators pointing to widespread weakness. Industrial output has fallen for three consecutive months while the nation's unemployment rate has risen to 5.9 per cent, its highest level in three years.

Adding to the gloom was Tuesday's report on merchandise trade in October.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.9340/50	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1555/60	Canadian dollar	
	1.4770/80	Deutschemark	
	1.6655/65	Dutch guilder	
	1.2655/65	Swiss franc	
	30.53/58	Belgian franc	
	5.0340/50	French franc	
	1118/1119	Italian lire	
	133.95/134.05	Japanese yen	
	5.5835/85	Swedish crown	
	5.8100/50	Norwegian crown	
	5.7160/7210	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	376.50/377.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed higher in robust trading. A U.S. discount rate cut reinforced expectations of lower Japanese rates and pushed the Nikkei Index up 452.76 points, or 1.40 per cent, to 32,876.78.

SYDNEY — Most leading stocks stayed flat over concern about the economy despite Wall Street and Tokyo rises. The All Ordinaries Index rose 0.4 points to 1,284.1.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended higher in sluggish trading. The Hang Seng Index rose 16.79 points to close at 3,083.44 while the Hong Kong Index gained 10.99 to 2,020.24.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times shed 0.76 of a point to end at 1,173.64. "Investors lost confidence and decided to take profits in the afternoon after early gains," one broker said.

FRANKFURT — The Dax Index fell 20.17 points to 1,457.24, its lowest close since December 4. Traders said there was widespread disappointment prices were not able to gain any lift from the 1.3 per cent increase in prices on Wall Street.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed easier but above the day's low as higher interest rates and year-end factors weighed on the market. The all-share SPI Index closed off two points at 912.6.

PARIS — Share prices closed slightly lower as the market's early enthusiasm over a U.S. interest rate cut waned on worries about the franc's weakness and the Gulf crisis. The CAC-40 Index closed 2.33 points down at 1,589.32.

LONDON — Shares firmed in thin late afternoon trading, largely on the back of a higher opening on Wall Street. The FTSE 100 closed 16.9 points higher at 2,178.7, with gains in banks and several companies with large overseas business.

NEW YORK — A firmer opening was erased by midday in largely directionless trading. With Tuesday's cut in the discount rate, investors looked for major banks to lower their prime rates. The Dow average was off about three points at 2,623.27 at 1710 GMT.

Recession grips U.K.

LONDON (R) — Britain's economy was given stark confirmation that it was in the grip of recession Wednesday when the broadest measure of economic growth registered a 1.2 per cent quarterly drop, the biggest fall since 1980.

The decline in gross domestic product, which measures the total value of goods and services generated by the economy, in the three months to September compared with a rise in the second quarter of 0.4 per cent.

The decline offered no solace to Prime Minister John Major struggling to find a remedy for Britain's high inflation rate of 9.7 per cent without setting off full-blown recession.

The Conservative government's high interest rate policy has brought unemployment and bankruptcy to some companies.

The weak British figures increased pressure on Major's government for an early cut in interest rates.

"The implication is clear enough that rates have to come down, but with sterling still languishing at the foot of the ERM, the easing will have to wait," said an analyst with Bank of America in London.

But Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont says he cannot ease the credit squeeze against inflation until the pound perks up in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) of the European Monetary System.

Other official statistics released Wednesday showed Britain's economic outlook for 1991 was grim with manufacturers expecting to slash investment by more than seven per cent next year.

The most widely accepted definition of recession is two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

Gulf crisis wrecks Pakistani economy

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan is on the verge of bankruptcy and desperately needs more foreign aid to avoid economic disaster, a senior Pakistani official has said.

Taro Ishibashi, director of loan aid at the ministry of foreign affairs, said in an interview Pakistan could default on its debt because of the impact of the Gulf crisis.

"The economy of this country is nearly on the brink of bankruptcy and one has to do something to assist," said Ishibashi, who is leading a delegation talking to the Pakistani government about Japanese economic aid plans.

Foreign aid donors should not put too many conditions on further assistance to Pakistan because of the depth of the problems it faced, he said.

"One can't afford to be too picky and choosy... we have got to take into account the economic situation of this country, which is on the brink of going into default," Ishibashi said.

Islamabad has presented Japan, which is its biggest aid donor and largest trade partner, with a wish list of 15 projects and other proposals it would like funded, he said. Among them is

a plea for emergency assistance to overcome the effects of the Gulf crisis.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves sank to just 1.30 billion rupees (\$59 million) at the end of November, enough to cover only three days worth of imports, from 3.05 billion rupees (\$138 million) a year earlier.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its aftermath is costing Pakistan more than \$2 billion a year because of higher oil costs and the loss of trade and remittances from Pakistani workers who fled the Gulf.

It was already suffering from a decision by the International Monetary Fund in June to halt disbursement of standby and structural adjustment funds after Pakistan failed to meet its economic targets.

The United States dealt Islamabad another blow on Oct. 1 when it stopped all military and economic aid after President George Bush failed to certify that Pakistan did not possess nuclear weapons.

The aid was worth \$564 million this year, along with previously authorised military aid and unsubsidised military sales worth \$2.7 billion.

Israel sees \$51b GDP

TEL AVIV (R) — Mass Soviet Jewish immigration will help boost Israel's gross domestic product (GDP) by 4.6 per cent this year, compared with 1.3 per cent growth last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics said Wednesday.

The bureau issued preliminary figures based on the first 11 months of 1990. It said GDP would be 102 billion shekels (\$51 billion).

But the projected rise is much smaller than the 8.5 per cent annual GDP growth the finance ministry says is needed to absorb one million Soviet Jews expected through 1992.

The influx of more than 160,000 immigrants, most from the Soviet Union, through November has prodded Israel out of nearly three years of stagnation caused by the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The uprising disrupted industry and discouraged investment.

The bureau said the main factor in this year's growth would be a 16 per cent rise in fixed assets, such as housing, compared with a drop of six per cent in 1989.

Investment in housing construction will rise by 10 per cent in 1990, double last year's increase. Housing starts in the first nine months of 1990 totalled 27,700 units, against 14,500 units for same period in 1989.

The immigration wave will widen Israel's trade deficit, the bureau said, projecting a deficit of \$6 billion, compared with \$3.5 billion in 1989.

Exports of goods and services, suffering from a sharp downturn in foreign tourism and diamond sales, will grow just 1.1 per cent to \$17.5 billion. In 1989 exports grew 4.6 per cent over the previous year.

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20.12.90 (Thursday) 4:00 pm: Christingle Service for children
23.12.90 (Sunday) 8:00 am: Holy Communion with Christmas Carols
6:00 pm: Christmas Carols in Arabic/English
24.12.90 (Monday) 11:30 pm: Midnight Mass
25.12.90 (Tuesday) 11:15 am: Family Christmas Service
Tel: 628543

TODAY AT

<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155</p> <p>LETHAL WEAPON</p> <p>Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420</p> <p>1- HER ALIBI 2- BEETLE JUSE</p> <p>Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144</p> <p>Sylvester Stallone LOCK UP</p> <p>Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.</p>	<p>Cinema NIJOU Tel: 675571</p> <p>ARCTIC HEAT</p> <p>Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30. Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.</p>
<p>Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238</p> <p>The Fearful Road (Arabic)</p> <p>Show: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.</p>	

Ryzhkov, on verge of quitting, says perestroika has failed

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, apparently delivering a farewell speech, declared Wednesday that President Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" reforms as originally conceived had failed.

"The fate of the government I head is pre-ordained," said the prime minister, long criticised by reformist economists and radical politicians as an obstacle to major change and the transfer to a market system Gorbachev says he wants.

Ryzhkov, 61, told the Congress of People's Deputies — the Soviet parliament — that opponents of his government were aiming to destroy the entire Soviet system.

He did not specifically say he was stepping down. But deputies in the hall said the tone of his remarks left little doubt that he did not expect to remain in his post under the president's proposed reshaping of executive power.

"We have not managed to implement perestroika in the form that it was originally conceived," Ryzhkov told the deputies. Both he and Gorbachev bore their share of responsibility for this, the prime minister said.

One of the country's leading intellectuals, 84-year-old academician and parliamentary deputy Dmitry Likhachev, said Ryzhkov's remarks were "an admission that perestroika has failed and that we have to start all over again."

At the same time, a group of liberal and radical intellectuals including some close to Gorbachev, issued a statement saying perestroika in its original

form had come to an end and called for a new centre-left coalition.

Among reasons for his own errors, Ryzhkov said, was the fact that he allowed the country's traditional ideology to take priority over economics — a charge many radicals and economists have made against him.

The prime minister made clear he disagreed with Gorbachev's efforts to restructure Kremlin power at this stage but said he was happy to have worked under Gorbachev.

"I separate his tactical errors from his noble strategic aims," Ryzhkov added.

Ryzhkov, appointed by Gorbachev in September 1985, said his government had been the target of an "undeclared war by forces... aiming to strike a blow at our state and our social and political order and finally destroy it."

Calling for extraordinary measures to block a growing crisis in the country, he appeared to align himself with army and navy chiefs who Wednesday urged Gorbachev to consider direct Kremlin rule in major trouble spots.

The military leaders, together with top hard-line Communists and Russian nationalist writers, issued their appeal in a document circulated at the congress, where the president's own vision of a new union has come under bitter attack.

The appeal, which also carried the signature of Patriarch Aleksy of the Russian Orthodox Church, said the Soviet state was in danger from separatists and "anti-popular, anti-Soviet forces."

Among figures signing the document, which clearly increases pressure on Gorbachev to crack down in some republics, were chief of general staff Mikhail Moiseyev, ground forces Commander Valentin Varenikov and navy head Vladimir Chernavin.

The appeal was issued as the presidents of Baltic Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia themselves called on the Kremlin to recognise the independence they have declared and protested at the continued presence of the Soviet army in their republics.

Gorbachev has proposed a new treaty giving wider powers to the Soviet Union's constituent republics. But many of them, including Baltic regions, have rejected it as keeping most power in the hands of a central administration in Moscow.

Boris Yeltsin, the Kremlin chief's main political rival and president of the giant Russian Federation, told the congress Wednesday the project meant continuing the "unlimited authority" of Moscow across the country.

"Russia does not agree with the creation of a Kremlin dictatorship which does not have a realistic plan for saving the country," the 59-year-old Yeltsin, who enjoys wide popular support, declared.

"The way out of today's situation is possible only on the basis of a dialogue of equals between the centre and the republics. This is not the break-up of the union. It is the only means of saving it."

6 die in Caucasus clashes
Meanwhile clashes in the

ethnically troubled southern Caucasus region of the Soviet Union have killed six people since last week, the TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

The latest deaths occurred Monday night when two policemen were killed and another was gravely wounded in an armed ambush in Azerbaijan's Nakhichevan region, located between the Republic of Armenia and the border with Iran.

On Saturday, Armenian gunmen fired on a motor vehicle en route to Shusha, in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, killing three Azerbaijanis, TASS said in a report from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

The sixth death occurred on Dec. 13, when an Azerbaijani was killed and two people were wounded when a truck convoy was ambushed en route to the Azerbaijani village of Urmudlu, TASS quoted Azerbaijani KGB chief Vagif Guseinov as saying.

He said extremists had tried to provoke tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh by blocking access to the airport in its principal city, Stepanakert, according to TASS.

Similar attempts to heighten tensions often occurred before important political events in the country, TASS quoted Guseinov as saying, apparently referring to Monday's convening of the national parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies.

In the past two years, more than 200 people have died in ethnic clashes over the control of Nagorno-Karabakh territory. The area is populated mostly by Armenians but Azerbaijan has held it since 1923.

Europe still too weak even with a Soviet collapse — NATO general

OSLO (R) — A collapse of the Soviet Union would still confront the West with a major military power in the nuclear-armed Russian Republic, a British general in NATO said Wednesday.

General Patrick Palmer urged Western Europe to keep strong defence ties to the United States, saying the Europeans were too weak to defend themselves against even a disintegrated Soviet Union.

"The Europeans alone cannot balance the power of the Soviet Union nor of Russia in the longer term," Palmer, commander-in-chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, told Reuters.

The Russian Federation itself, with 150 million inhabitants and the largest of the 15 Soviet republics, would remain a superpower with a huge nuclear capability even if the Soviet Union collapsed, he said.

"We are entirely content that the Soviet Union is showing no aggressive intent but it has a formidable capability in the north if things change," said Palmer, who commands forces on NATO's northern flank — bordering Russia.

NATO's 16 foreign ministers met in Brussels Monday and Tuesday to try to define a role for the trans-Atlantic alliance after the end of the cold war and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

A statement at the end of the talks said U.S. forces must remain in Europe to guarantee stability, but seemed to paper over several divisive issues.

NATO is concerned, for instance, that it could be overtaken by European Community moves to gain a security role for the first time. NATO European flank members Norway, Turkey and Iceland are outside the EC.

At the talks, Washington complained that its allies were not doing enough to support the military buildup in the Gulf. France also wants a bigger say in European defence and threatened to walk out of the meeting in a row over NATO's future role.

Europeanisation (of NATO's defence) must not be at the expense of trans-Atlantic links, Palmer said. NATO's northern flank, for instance, was dependent on reinforcements across the Atlantic in times of crisis.

Palmer said the Soviet Union had continued to modernise forces on the Arctic Kola peninsula facing Norway despite sweeping cuts by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev elsewhere, he said.

The Kola peninsula is home base for the huge Soviet northern fleet, including its strongest force of nuclear submarines and the likely home port for the new Tbilisi class aircraft carrier which is now undergoing trials in the Black Sea.

"There is no sign that the modernisation of the fleet is slowing down," Palmer said.

Palmer said that the Soviet Union's forces in the Leningrad military district, might benefit from the accord limiting Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) signed in Paris last month.

In May, for instance, the Soviet Union transferred 40 MiG-27 fighter bombers from Hungary to the Kola peninsula — reclassifying them as naval air forces. Since naval air forces are a separate category under CFE, reclassification may have saved the planes from the scrapheap.

Doctor donates half of Nobel Prize to cancer centre

SEATTLE (AP) — Dr. E. Donnall Thomas, whose pioneering bone marrow transplants offered new hope to leukemia patients, donated his half of the more than \$700,000 Nobel Prize award to a cancer centre. Thomas gave the money to Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre, where he is a physician and a researcher. Thomas shared this year's Nobel in medicine with Dr. Joseph E. Murray of Boston. Thomas and Murray were credited with performing critical experiments that opened the door to successful organ transplantation in humans. Thomas, 70, announced his gift to the cancer centre at a reception and dinner Monday night.

Hundreds visit auto parts store to see image of Mary
PROGRESO, Texas (AP) — More than 1,000 people a day are flocking to the back of an auto parts store, past the spark plugs and fan belts, to see what many believe is an image of the Virgin Mary on the bathroom floor. Each day as the multitudes arrive at Progreso Auto Supply in this tiny Mexican border town, owner Reynaldo Trevino directs them to the spot in the concrete of the shower stall, next to a toilet, where thousands say they have seen the image of the mother of Christ. "She's so beautiful, so beautiful," 14-year-old Bonnie Maldonado said as tears streamed down her face. The foot-wide image is in varying shades of gray that Trevino said used to be one shade. He said he first noticed it on Dec. 3. "I asked her, 'why on the floor? Why the bathroom?'" Trevino said. The 45-year-old Roman Catholic said something within his heart told him to spread the message that the Virgin Mary's presence on the floor symbolised the way many neglect their faith. "So I started telling every customer who came in," he said. "Before I sold them a part, I took them back." Officials at the Roman Catholic archdiocese in Brownsville have declined to comment on the image.

Mom tosses baby, then collapses in fire
NEW YORK (AP) — A two-month-old baby trapped in a burning apartment house was saved by two quick-thinking passersby who used a trenchcoat to catch the infant after her mother dropped her out of a fourth-floor window. The baby, Amanda Morales, fell 13 metres into the arms of Bruce and Karen Pane, a brother and sister who were driving by the house in Brooklyn Monday morning when they heard the young mother screaming for help. The pair used Karen Pane's coat to catch the baby, who escaped serious injury. "There's no way you can blow a catch like that," said Bruce Pane, 35, an avid softball and touch football player. "I've made a lot of pressure catches, but none with that much pressure on it." The mother, Susan Seymour, 20, then staggered away from the window and collapsed.

18-year-old gets 38 years for pelting motorists
UPPER MERLBORO, Maryland (AP) — A teenager convicted of hurling rocks at passing motorists last May on the capital beltway encircling Washington has been sentenced to 38½ years in prison. Prince George's County Circuit Judge William Missouri has sentenced 18-year-old John L. Burgess on a total of eight felonies and 28 misdemeanors. "You are young, and it grieves me now that I must impose this sentence upon you," said Missouri. "But it also grieves me that destiny Morris will never rise above the (mental abilities) of a third- or fourth-grader," Missouri said. Miss Morris, now 16, was among 30 people in 24 vehicles who were injured in the May 27 attack. Once a promising artist, she has undergone intensive treatment and therapy since the attack. She returned to her home this month. Burgess, who could have been sentenced to a maximum of 41½ years, confessed that he and two others threw dozens of rocks at motorists for fun. Another youth also has been convicted in the case, and a third will stand trial in February.

Burmese dissidents declare parallel government

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A group of Burmese dissidents, sidelined by a military government that has ignored an electoral mandate for democracy, has declared formation of a rival government.

Headed by Sein Win, the cousin of Burma's detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the group Tuesday announced an eight-member cabinet at Manerplaw, headquarters of the Karen National Union.

All eight men won parliamentary seats in the May 27 general election. Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) won the poll by a landslide the government has refused to accept.

Sein Win was named prime minister of the "national coalition government of the union of Burma." He said in a speech that forming the body "was the only option for us to choose because this military junta has no will and no way to transfer power to the people."

"Burma has become a country shrouded by darkness because of all the unlawful arrests, tortures and persecutions and human rights violations," a declaration issued by the new government said.

Copies were made available in Bangkok Wednesday. The declaration said the government stood for the immediate elimination of the military government, the calling of a national convention including members of the parliament and insurgent groups, and the establishment of a "genuine democratic government," to create "an independent, prosperous and modernised federal union of Burma."

It named eight people to a cabinet: Sein Win, Peter Lin Pin, Win Ko, Than Kywe, Hla Pe, Thein Oo, Hla Tint and Tun Oo.

Sein Win is a member of the National Democracy Party while Peter Lin Pin was an independent candidate in the election. The others are members of the National League for Democracy. All fled the threat of arrest in Burma after their plans to form a rival government became known.

The Democracy Alliance of Burma (DAB), an umbrella organisation of 21 ethnic and other rebel groups fighting the central government backed the declaration. The Karen are members of the DAB which has its headquarters in Manerplaw, located along the frontier with Thailand, some 192 kilometres northeast of Rangoon.

Italian president at centre of political row

ROME (R) — President Francesco Cossiga, under fire over a secret NATO guerrilla network, appeared increasingly isolated Wednesday after a strong attack by Italy's Communists drew an ambiguous response from his political allies.

Cossiga has been at the centre of a political storm since threatening to resign temporarily unless the government rallied round him in the so-called Gladio affair.

Opposition Communists pounced on the latest of his toughly-worded attacks against critics, although Cossiga had targeted a member of the ruling five-party coalition.

He said Republican Party secretary Giorgio La Malfa had been "imprudent and impudent" for suggesting that those who ought to clear up the Gladio

controversy should themselves be investigated.

As a junior minister in the 1950s, Cossiga helped draw up the formal structure of the group that was supposed to organise resistance if Warsaw Pact forces occupied Europe. But Gladio is also suspected of links to unexplained bombings between 1969 and 1984 in which hundreds were killed.

"This time, things have gone beyond the limit. I think all political parties must ask themselves whether the highest figures of our state are trustworthy or not," Communist leader Achille Occhetto told the weekly L'Europeo in response to Cossiga's remarks.

The rest of the interview, published Wednesday, was highly critical of the 62-year-old president.

Slovenes, Belgrade clash over independence vote

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia's state presidency, stepping up the pressure on Slovenia, has denounced the rebel republic's planned independence referendum as unconstitutional.

Raising the stakes ahead of Slovenia's plebiscite set for next Sunday, the eight-man presidency said Tuesday it could not accept what amounted to a unilateral decision to secede.

The presidency, the highest constitutional body, said it had asked the federal government and parliament to protect the country's integrity. It did not elaborate.

The referendum is to decide whether the 1.9 million Slovenes

want independence for their republic.

Slovenia, bordering Austria and Italy, is the most Westernised of the six republics and led the way in dumping communism in Yugoslavia after 45 years.

"The presidency cannot agree with, or accept, anyone's unilateral actions which threaten the constitutional legal order and the integrity of the country and its interests," a statement said.

Slovenia's leadership quickly rejected the charges and accused the Yugoslav presidency of trying to influence the outcome of Sunday's poll.

Albanian opposition wants poll put off, prisoners freed

VIENNA (R) — Albania's opposition Democratic Party said Wednesday that parliamentary elections set for Feb. 10 should be delayed and demanded the immediate release of all political prisoners in the Communist state.

"The Democratic Party thinks it will be impossible to participate in parliamentary elections on an equal basis with the (ruling) Communist Party unless the date of the election planned for Feb. 10 is postponed," the new party said in a statement.

Spokesman Genc Polo said by telephone from Tirana that the party, Albania's first non-Communist political group for more than 40 years, would submit its request to the authorities Thursday or Friday.

He told Reuters the party would probably seek a postponement of about three months. The statement, read by Polo,

also said there was no place for prisoners of conscience in a democratic pluralist society.

"For that reason the Democratic Party will ask the president of the parliament to free all political prisoners immediately and employ them," the statement said. It gave no figure.

The Democratic Party was founded last week after President Ramiz Alia bowed to student protests and agreed to allow independent political parties. It applied for official registration with the Justice Ministry Tuesday.

Albanian Radio said Wednesday the trials had opened of 157 people accused of involvement in anti-Communist riots.

In a new move, the Albanian parliament formalised its proposal and adopted a decree permitting establishment of the parties, providing they do not have an "anti-national" character and are not funded from abroad.

Sri Lanka army destroys rebel base, kills 25

COLOMBO (AP) — Army commandos raided and destroyed an important base of the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels in a pre-dawn attack Wednesday, killing 25 guerrillas, military officials said.

The claim could not be independently confirmed. Destruction of the camp would be a significant victory for the government forces who have little control in the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula, 300 kilometres north of Colombo.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are fighting to set up a separate nation in the north and the east of the island.

At least 12 of the militants were women who were guarding the hideout near Jaffna City, the Tiger's stronghold, the officials said.

The military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the commandos seized a large number of weapons, blew up a maze of bunkers and carried back the bodies of some rebels.

The reported attack came a day after a land mine planted by the guerrilla exploded under an army jeep and killed Brig. Lakshmana Wijeratne, the commander of security forces in the eastern Trincomalee district.

Colombian drug baron surrenders

MEDELLIN (R) — Colombian drug baron Fabio Ochoa, one of the country's most-hunted fugitives, has surrendered to the government and officials predict fellow-bosses of his cocaine cartel may follow.

Ochoa, considered by U.S. and Colombian authorities to be among the top three leaders of the powerful Medellín cartel, surrendered to justice officials at a church near the Medellín Drug Centre Tuesday.

It was the first major success for President Cesar Gaviria's policy of offering lenient terms to tempt drug traffickers to turn themselves in.

The offer is aimed at ending a 16-month-old drug war in which the traffickers responded to a government crackdown by killing hundreds of Colombians in

bomb blasts and shootings.

Judicial sources say Colombia's drug lords may use the surrender of Ochoa as a test of the government peace offer and other may follow if he is well-treated.

"This shows the whole world that there are more rational ways to make people submit to justice," Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo told reporters. "Who would have thought three or four months ago that these citizens might surrender?"

Ochoa, 33, one of Colombia's best-known fugitives, is wanted for extradition to the United States on charges of drug trafficking and plotting the murder of a drug enforcement administration informer.

In return for surrendering and

confessing, the Colombian government commits itself to cancelling his extradition and to cutting his jail term by up to half.

Judicial sources said Ochoa's brothers Jorge Luis and Juan David, also in the top rank of cartel leaders, had made contact with the authorities recently and had shown interest in accepting the government's offer.

Whether they surrendered depended on how Fabio Ochoa was treated and whether he was given the legal, human rights and safety guarantees the traffickers demanded, the sources said.

Giraldo said the number of requests for information received by the government suggested "that this will be a permanent task of surrender."

UNICEF asks leaders to 'keep promise' to children

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) believes that the lives and well-being of millions of young people hinge on the political will of world leaders to invest in the next generation.

In its annual state of the world's children report released Wednesday, UNICEF called for a world-wide effort to end mass child deaths and malnutrition by the year 2000.

"The mental and physical growth of a child cannot be asked to wait until interest rates fall or until commodity prices recover or until debt repayments have been rescheduled or until the economy returns to growth or until after a general election or until a war is over," UNICEF said.

Asia, the report said, had both the worst and the best record in caring for children. Industrial nations showed an increase in children living below the poverty level while Latin American and African countries failed to spare children from budget cuts provoked by the debt crisis.

The report said that a quarter of a million children die each week from common diseases, one child in three is stunted by

malnutrition and AIDS threatens to wipe out hard-won child health gains, particularly in Africa.

Evoking the Gulf crisis, UNICEF asked whether "the international community was prepared to act on the important as well as on the immediate, and in the interests of the powerless as well as those of the powerful."

The report focuses on the 20 goals for the year 2000 adopted at September's world summit for children, including a one-third reduction in child deaths and a primary school education for at least 80 per cent of poor children.

"Will these promises be kept?" asked UNICEF's executive director, James Grant. "Will they translate into practical action to end the shame of 40,000 children dying each day?"

Despite the bleak future portrayed in the report, Grant announced that the United Nations had succeeded in achieving its 10-year goal of immunising 80 per cent of the developing world's children, thereby saving 2.5 million young lives each year through vaccines.

But UNICEF rebuked both

developing and industrial nations or still spending more on arms than child care and even neglecting basic monitoring of child welfare.

"In most countries it is easier to find out how many video recorders have been imported in the last 12 months than it is to find out how many children have died," the report said.

UNICEF estimated that \$20 billion a year would meet the goals set in the summit by reordering priorities, such as less support for the well-off at the poor's expense.

Developing nations, it said, should cut down their military spending. In turn, industrial countries should increase debt relief and restructure official aid programmes, which devote only 25 per cent to health and education.

Asia was singled out as a combination of the best and the worst. Japan, the world leader in child care, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia were cited as nations whose investment in health, nutrition and education contributed to economic growth.

China ranked high in infant care and education but the report said the prevalence there of malnutrition among children under five was only slightly lower than in Africa.

But despite rising incomes, the report said "poverty still found its centre of gravity" in Asia with 30 per cent of the world's child deaths found in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union showed ominous signs of sacrificing their children during a period of transition and turbulence. Hungary and Poland, for example, showed declines in milk and meat consumption. Despite few available statistics, the report said "the warning signs are there."

Western nations showed an increase in the number of children living below official poverty lines since 1980, including the United States, Canada, Germany and Ireland.

In Britain poverty increased from 12 per cent to 26 per cent since 1979 while the United States still ranked lower than West European countries and Canada in infant mortality rates, the report said.